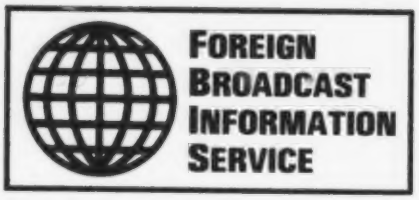


# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-036
Wednesday
24 February 1988

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-88-036* *24 February 1988*

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## 24 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD241411 [Editorial Report]

### Lebanon

Two IDF soldiers were killed and two others wounded when their tank ran over a mine in the central sector of the Israeli security zone 22 February, Jerusalem radio announced, adding that the Amal Movement claimed responsibility for the attack.

As for the fate of Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, Amal official Da'ud Da'ud disclosed that Amal has arrested three men who have admitted involvement in the U.S. officer's abduction, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Two of the detainees took part in the kidnapping, while the third was detained while carrying a message from Beirut to the kidnappers. Amal personnel are searching new hideouts identified by the detainees as possible sites where Higgins may be held, Da'ud revealed.

In response to the searches for Higgins, Lebanese students and clergy at Qom seminary in Iran issued a statement denouncing the "harassment and arrests of mujahidin" in south Lebanon by "hirelings of global arrogance," Tehran radio reported. For the sake of a U.S. "spy," the hands of fighters are being "tied behind their backs," residences of clergymen are being "violated," and people are being treated "abominably," the statement asserted.

### Israel

**Likud Policy for Shultz**—Likud ministers have decided that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will present Secretary of State George Shultz with the Camp David autonomy plan as the "sole basis" for negotiations, MA'ARIV reported. The decision was taken during a lengthy debate on the Likud's position in the upcoming talks with Shultz. Nevertheless, Shamir stated that he is prepared to make "alterations" in the Camp David Accords "as warranted by the changing times," the paper noted.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi subsequently told IDF radio that he has "no idea" what alterations Shamir has in mind, and he stressed that the new U.S. initiative "conflicts" with the Camp David Accords. Levi warned that the shortened autonomy period specified in the U.S. proposal would be a "corridor" through which Israel would be led to transfer all the territories, including Jerusalem, to "alien" rule.

**Occupied Territories**—A roadside charge was activated against an IDF convoy in the Gaza Strip 23 February and shots were fired at the vehicles, IDF radio reported. The attack caused no injuries. Riots erupted in Gaza the same day during a visit by the Australian foreign minister, Jerusalem radio noted. Jerusalem and IDF radios reported that a general strike was under way in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 24 February.

On the issue of IDF conduct, IDF radio disclosed that the chief of staff has issued a circular warning soldiers that force should only be used for accomplishing a task, such as quelling a violent incident, and it must not be used as a means of punishment or after a task has been completed. Force can be used to disperse riots, to overcome resistance to arrests, or during pursuit of rioters and suspects, but it must be limited to the time and location of the incident.

In another development, political sources cited by HA'ARETZ revealed that the IDF habitually cuts off electricity and telephone lines to Arab settlements under curfew, noting that these measures are used as a punishment and a deterrent measure against "problem" areas.

**Pipeline Affair**—Foreign Ministry sources confirmed that the Bechtel Corporation proposed in 1985 to sell oil to Israel at reduced rates in return for an Israeli pledge not to attack the projected Iraqi oil pipeline, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Sources close to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres denied that the offer included a proposal to fund the Labor Party, and they said Peres did not report the offer to other Israeli officials because he did not take it seriously. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres wondered why anyone would have needed to resort to bribery when Israeli leaders had agreed to the laying of the pipeline.

### Afghanistan

Conditions are "favorable" for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but "enemies" of the Afghan people are seeking to prevent the withdrawal and obstruct the policy of national reconciliation, President Najibullah charged in remarks reported by Kabul radio. Speaking to tribal elders in Qandahar Province, the president asserted that "no foreign country has a right to express an opinion" on the formation of a coalition government, which is a task for the Afghan people alone.

In an interview published in IZVESTIYA 24 February, Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Rafi' acknowledged that the security situation is most tense in the provinces bordering Pakistan. The general declared that the Afghan Army would have no difficulty defeating the opposition militarily if "subsidizing of antigovernment forces ceases." However, he stressed that the Armed Forces prefer a negotiated settlement.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Palestinian Figures View Shultz Visit

*JN231934 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has said that Murphy's assistant Cluverius' efforts in Jerusalem to ensure a meeting between George Shultz and a number of Palestinian figures will not realize any success. He said the PLO has reiterated its rejection of any meeting with Shultz during his visit and that meetings with any state take place only through the PLO.

Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PLO Executive Committee member and deputy secretary general of the PFLP, said that what happened during the meeting between the U.S. consul in Jerusalem and a number of Palestinian figures shows that the aim of the devious Washington manuever is to undermine the uprising.

Former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, who was dismissed by the Israeli occupation authorities, considered that a direct meeting with Shultz would lead to a better explanation of the plight of the Palestinians, who have been living under Israeli occupation for more than 20 years.

'Arafat adviser Bassam Abu Sharif said in this regard that by ignoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent state, the U.S. Government is playing a destructive role which will lead to the escalation of violence in the region.

Abu Sharif added: Not a single Palestinian will meet with Shultz as long as Washington insists on playing a negative role and placing obstacles on the path of efforts to reach a just and permanent solution. He noted that the U.S. Government's attitude is aimed at concealing the crimes of the Israelis against the Palestinian people.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi says that Shultz' visit to the region, especially Israel, is unlike his previous visits and should be considered within the framework of the uprising which, for 2 months, has been shaking the occupied Palestinian territories and the conscience of the entire international community. Klibi said Shultz will be wasting his time if the ideas he is carrying are aimed only at containing the war of stones, which has confused Israeli officials.

Klibi also asserted that only a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab dispute in accordance with international law could restore security to the occupied territory and peace to the entire region.

### Shultz Viewed as Bringing 'Zionist Solution'

*LD240040 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The aim of the mission of George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, as with all previous U.S. initiatives, is to keep the Palestinian issue at a non-Palestinian level. Accordingly, George Shultz carries with him in his Middle East portfolio what previous U.S. Administrations have proposed, that is, he carries the Zionist solution which capitalizes upon the realities of the status quo without changing that status quo. Such a solution embodies the logic underlying the Zionist thesis justifying the continuation of the occupation: the security of Israel, including the limits of Israel which were narrow prior to 1967 and were then expanded, the integrity of the biblical land of Israel, and so on.

Whenever the struggle, steadfastness, existence, youths, and stones of the Palestinians constituted a threat to the Zionists, the United States comes to the rescue [passage indistinct]. Neither Washington in the past nor Shultz at present has ever considered the achievements of the Palestinian struggle as legitimate achievements that should also be taken into account in a formula for a settlement of the Middle East conflict. U.S. Administrations do not want to recognize the PLO as the national institution in which the word, identity, and means of expression of the Palestinian peoples are crystallized. Nor does it want to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination or its natural relationship to its homeland. [passage omitted]

George Shultz wants the Palestinian people to accept from him a solution of the Palestinian issue without addressing the Palestinian dimension of this issue. He wants this people to go to him in occupied Jerusalem to receive from his hands surgical treatment of [words indistinct] Palestinian nationalism and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. [Words indistinct] if the U.S. secretary of state wants to rely on himself, then that is his right. But the Palestinian people will not accept insults from anyone and this people knows very well that its struggle can raise the Palestinian level, viewpoint, and right above any other level, right, or viewpoint and we are always ready for more struggle and more sacrifices.

## Algeria

### USSR Envoy Comments on Talks with Bendjedid

*LD232325 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The USSR ambassador at large was received at the headquarters of the presidency of the Republic. He handed to President Chadli Bendjedid a message from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

At the end of the audience the Soviet roving ambassador mentioned the topics discussed with the head of state: the examination of the Afghan problem and a comprehensive review of regional problems, discussed in a very open and constructive atmosphere. Mr Sytenko expressed the conviction that the audience will have an impact of undoubted importance on the further development of Algerian-Soviet relations.

### Shultz Visit Planned To Pressure Arabs

*LD232302 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Nabilah Khuraysiyah commentary]

[Excerpt] Tomorrow, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz begins his visit to occupied Palestine, carrying in his bag, as was reported, a so-called U.S. peace plan for the region. Nabilah Khuraysiyah wrote on the subject:

The developments and changes brought about by the comprehensive Palestinian popular uprising constitute, in the view of U.S. policy, an extremely dangerous threat to Israel and to U.S. influence in the Middle East itself. In an attempt to calm down and contain the discharges resulting from the uprising of the Palestinian masses, and to abort them if possible, Shultz' tour comes as an urgent mission by Washington, using its familiar methods of maneuvering and misrepresenting the facts.

The intensive U.S. move came after the Reagan administration sensed the strength of the revolution of stones, which has begun to win the support of world public opinion. The uprising has created new facts inside and outside the region, all of which run in the same direction: the need to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its firm right to self-determination and to set up its own independent state. This can only materialize within the framework of an international conference under UN auspices with the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

This submission, and the world consensus over it, naturally do not satisfy Washington and Tel Aviv. They first hastened to send an envoy to the region in order to plot another conspiracy. Washington's point of view is known: The U.S. objective is not to strive to reach a comprehensive solution to the Palestine problem with all its aspects; rather, it strives for a partial solution. According to the proposal submitted by Murphy, the U.S. Administration's envoy, the matter concerns the holding of a tripartite regional conference which brings together Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. Thus, this is nothing more than the revival of the Camp David accords.

This is not strange coming from Washington. Since the United States began to show interest in the Arab-Israeli conflict, U.S. policy has been in total adherence to the firm principles of the U.S. policy on one hand and pretending to pursue a superpower policy eager to preserve peace and security in the region on the other. The firm principles of the U.S. policy in the region, which is the topic of the discussion, can be summed up as the adherence to the maintenance of Israel's external security and its internal stability, on the grounds that Israel acts as a military tool at the service of U.S. interests in the region.

The goal is to strive to eliminate the Palestinian causes by all means, to deal a blow to all Arab confrontation attempts, and to work for Washington singularly presenting a solution to the Middle East problem, rejecting the international peace conference.

Shultz will no doubt move within the context of these firm U.S. policy principles. Consequently, his basic task at this stage of the Palestinian escalation is to marginalize the uprising and exercise all possible pressure on the Arab side, to make it work for the calming down of the situation in the Arab territories. [passage indistinct: transmission break] In the end this means aborting the revolution of the Palestinian masses and killing the hope raised by the revolution of stones throughout the Arab arena. This is what Washington wants and this is what is in the bag of George Shultz, who arrives tomorrow in occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

## Chad

### Libyan Air Force Overflies Bardai 21 February

*AB221941 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Feb 88*

[Text] The Libyan Air Force flew over Bardai in the Tibesti Region at 1130 yesterday. This is a violation of Chadian airspace and constitutes another violation of the cease-fire in force since the beginning of last September.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Urges U.S. To 'Put Forward New Ideas'

*NC231423 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Ismailia, 23 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today called on the United States to put forward new ideas. He said that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz should bring with him new ideas compatible with the nature of the current phase. Speaking at a meeting with students and staff of the Suez Canal

University in Ismailia, President Mubarak also noted that the formulas included in the third section of the Camp David agreement are no longer in harmony with developments in the region.

Asked about the Iraq-Iran war, the president said: We call for peace. We want to stop the bloodshed in the Gulf. President Mubarak asserted that Gulf security is interwined with Egypt's, reiterating that Egypt has no troops outside its borders.

Speaking of Egypt's stand on the Palestinian uprising, Mubarak said Egypt's views on the Palestinian issue are unchanged. Egypt is working for the achievement of Palestinian rights, he declared.

## Iraqi RCC Deputy Chairman Arrives for Visit

### Makes Statement on Arrival

*JN231707 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim arrived in Cairo today heading a delegation on an official visit to Egypt lasting several days. The delegation accompanying 'Izzat Ibrahim comprises RCC member Hasan 'Ali, Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil, and Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih.

When he descended from the plane, the RCC vice chairman was received by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, awqaf minister and head of the honor escort mission which will accompany the vice chairman; and the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo. The national anthems of both Iraq and Egypt were then played.

Afterward, 'Izzat Ibrahim, accompanied by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, reviewed the honor guards who were lined up to greet the vice chairman. [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1112 GMT on 23 February reports that "Dr 'Izzat Ibrahim also shook hands with well-wishers who included Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy; Major General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo; senior Army commanders; and members of the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo."]

After a short rest at the presidential lounge at the airport, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi accompanied 'Izzat Ibrahim on an official motorcade to the latter's place of residence at the al-Tahirah palace.

In a press statement at the airport, 'Izzat Ibrahim said that he is carrying the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn the leader as well as those of Iraq—the people and the Army—to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and to fraternal Egypt—the people and the government—for their fraternal stand which displayed solidarity with and support for Iraq in its confrontation of the tyrannical Iranian aggression. He voiced the hope that this visit, which comes to crown visits exchanged by officials of the two countries, will contribute toward bolstering fraternal bilateral relations on all political, economic, military, and scientific levels.

He added that his talks with the brothers in Egypt seek to follow up and develop the results of the recent visit paid to Baghdad by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. He said that another reason for the talks was to acquaint President Husni Mubarak and the fraternal Egyptian people with the strength of the military situation in Iraq, Iraq's power in all fields, and also with Iraq's decisive ability to hold out and confront the Iranian aggression which targets the Arab nation—territory, dignity, and people. Ibrahim went on to say he will also exchange views with Egyptian officials on various issues of common interest and also on issues of interest to the Arab nation.

These issues have arisen under critical and sensitive circumstances. The Arab nation is being subjected to tyrannical and fierce aggression in two places; namely, Iraq and Palestine, where the valiant Palestinian people are fighting the forces of aggression with stones, setting the most splendid examples of heroism and sacrifice in defense of land and dignity.

In a statement made at the airport, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that the visit by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and his accompanying delegation is taking place within the framework of the developed fraternal bilateral relations.

### Appreciates Egyptian Support

*NC231610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi will receive 'Izzat Ibrahim, Iraqi RCC deputy chairman, and his accompanying delegation tonight. Ibrahim arrived in Cairo today on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Following his arrival, 'Izzat Ibrahim said that the visit, his first to Egypt, is to express the full appreciation of the Iraqi Government, people, and Army to Egypt's people and leadership, and most particularly to President Mubarak, for the brotherly pan-Arab stand that Egypt has assumed since the start of the Gulf war.

Ibrahim said that during his visit to Egypt he will continue the work which began during the previous exchanges between the two countries, most notably President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Iraq.

The RCC deputy chairman said that he will convey to President Mubarak the details of the situation on the war front. He added that various aspects of cooperation, the situation in the Arab arena, and the developments in the occupied territories will be discussed.

Commenting on Shultz' upcoming Mideast tour, the Iraqi official expressed hope that the tours which Shultz and other international emissaries are conducting in the region will promote the peace process and will help the Palestinians to regain their rights and to establish an independent state on their own land under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

For his part, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi stressed that the Egyptian Government and people support Iraq in the war. He added that the visit to Egypt by Iraq's RCC deputy chairman is conducted in the context of the traditionally strong relations between the two countries.

The prime minister said that the talks that the Iraqi delegation is holding in Egypt will cover numerous topics. Sidqi said that Egypt's position on the Iraq-Iran war is well-known. Egypt, he noted, rightfully supports Iraq, a country which has repeatedly expressed its willingness to stop the war and to implement the UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution No 538.

### Official Talks Begin 23 Feb

*JN231945 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The official talks between Iraq and Egypt began in Cairo today. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim headed the Iraqi side to the talks, while they were headed on the Egyptian side by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The talks dealt with the ties of cooperation between the two fraternal states and ways to develop them in all spheres. Attending the talks on the Iraqi side were RCC member Hasan 'Ali, Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo.

For Egypt, the talks were attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, housing minister; Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, minister of awqaf; and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation.

### Ibrahim, Sidqi Comment on Talks

*JN232146 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Feb (INA)—The RCC vice chairman and the Egyptian prime minister had held a meeting before the beginning of the official talks.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by RCC member Hasan 'Ali, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs 'Abdallah Fadil, and Trade Minister Mahdi Salih. For Egypt, the meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development; and Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, Awqaf minister and head of the honor escort mission.

In a speech delivered during the talks, the RCC vice chairman expressed the appreciation of the Iraqi leadership and people headed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn for Egypt's firm stand toward the Arab issues of mutual interest to the two fraternal states, particularly the Iraq-Iran war. He also paid tribute to the historic relations binding the two fraternal states since the beginning of human civilization.

He reiterated the eagerness of the two countries' leaderships to work in all spheres toward realizing an advanced and permanent level of fraternal Iraqi-Egyptian relations. He referred to the importance of exchanging views and analyses on various issues, and indicated that this emanates from Iraq's convictions regarding Egypt's capabilities and role at this critical phase of the Arab nation's life.

'Izzat Ibrahim continued: We note with appreciation the pan-Arab stands taken by the Arab Republic of Egypt in support of Iraq. These stands will be recorded in the brightest annals of Egypt's historic struggle, he said. Ibrahim reviewed the strong situation on the Iraqi front with the Iranian enemy, and the Iraqi forces' readiness to confront any reckless attempt that the Iranian regime may undertake.

He referred to the international support enjoyed by Iraq—support brought about by Iraq's positive stands and also by Iran's failure to acheive its objectives and realize its sabotaging intentions toward Iraq and the Arab nation. The RCC vice chairman also reviewed the measures taken by the Iraqi leadership to restructure the state's organizations and the economic results acheived on all levels in this respect.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi reaffirmed Egypt's continuous support and backing for Iraq in all fields, reiterating that Egypt will continue to take stands in support of Iraq on all pan-Arab and international levels to help confront the challenges facing it—challenges represented by the continuation of the Iranian aggression against it.

The talks dealt with the fateful Arab issues of mutual interest, especially related to supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

After the talks, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim made a statement to the press in which he spoke about the problems that are of interest to the Arab nation, particularly the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestine question. He added that the Iraqi and Egyptian sides held identical views on these two issues. Ibrahim noted that the talks

dealt with ways to enhance the ties of bilateral cooperation, especially in economic fields. He said that agreement in principle was reached to upgrade the two countries' joint committee meetings to the prime minister level. He indicated that Dr 'Atif Sidqi accepted an invitation to visit Iraq in the near future in order to sign a long-term agreement covering bilateral cooperation.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that the talks between the two sides dealt with all Arab issues, especially the situation in the Arabian Gulf and the Palestine question. He added that the two sides agreed to expand the specialties of the two fraternal states' joint committee to include all fields of bilateral economic cooperation, bilateral trade, and touristic exchange as well as other aspects of bilateral cooperation in other vital areas.

### GDR Official Concludes Visit to Cairo 24 Feb

*NC240928 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Peter Florin, current president of the UN General Assembly and GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, left Cairo for The Netherlands this mornign following a 4-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Florin held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi on developments in the Middle East situation and the Palestinian issue, in light of President Mubarak's initiative. They also discussed the situation in the Gulf region.

During his meetings with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the GDR official asserted that Egypt and the United Nations share the same views on the Middle East and Palestinian issues. He stressed the need for consolidated efforts to push the peace process forward. [passage omitted]

### Ghali Sees Prospect of Mideast Conference

*PM221631 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 Feb 88 pp 16, 17*

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by 'Abd al-Latif al-Minawi in Cairo; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] [Al-Minawi] President Mubarak said in Washington that it is wrong to wait until after the coming U.S. and Israeli elections before holding an international conference. Do you think an international conference will actually be held before those elections are over?

[Ghali] At present there is Arab unanimity that an international conference is the only way to solve the Middle East problem. Besides, international conviction is increasing and exerting more efforts and moral pressures for the convening of an international peace conference. So, all efforts made to speed up the convening of such a conference are a step in the right direction. Talk of an international conference continued in both Arab and European capitals until the belief emerged—especially when the Reagan-Gorbachev summit overlooked it—that the prospect of its being held had now been put back another year or two—in other words, until the U.S. and Israeli elections were over and until Soviet-U.S. relations were showing some kind of stability.

But I do not believe that the election factor will necessarily have a negative impact on the U.S. Administration's position to the point of paralyzing its effectiveness, especially since President Reagan is not a candidate in this campaign. Thus, he is devoting his time and efforts to fully shouldering his responsibilities as president. In addition, the U.S. Administration finds itself facing an explosive situation in the Middle East. That is why, as a superpower with international responsibilities, it must prepare to confront and interact with such a situation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] Some Arab parties consider that President Mubarak's initiative forfeits the gains that the uprising has made. They also criticize the fact that the initiative equates the uprising with Israeli terrorism, since it describes both as violence. How do you assess such criticism?

[Ghali] President Mubarak's initiative calling for an end to violent acts in the occupied Arab territories is actually directed against Israel and the Israeli occupation authorities. They use violence, repression, and oppression against the unarmed Palestinian masses as well as against children and students demonstrating in protest at the violation of human rights and the continuing deterioration in their living conditions under occupation. It demands that the violence be stopped as a practical step leading toward other steps, such as making international arrangements to protect the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, and respecting the basic rights of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so that suitable conditions can be secured for the convening of an international conference.

We must not follow the thoughts of those short-sighted people who are making such accusations, namely that throwing stones at Israeli tanks is sufficient to liberate Palestinian territory and expel the Israeli Army from it. Logic and rationalism stress the need to benefit politically from the positive change that has occurred in world public opinion regarding the Palestinian people's struggle, and not to allow the uprising to exhaust its driving force under the pressure of siege, starvation, and beatings that Israel continues to implement while the camp inhabitants receive no aid from those who demand that they continue the uprising.

[Al-Minawi] Do you think President Mubarak's initiative is a possible step at this particular stage? And does it make correct use of the uprising?

[Ghali] The Egyptian initiative comes as a sound step in the right direction. This is because it tries to use the local and international results the Palestinian uprising has brought about in order to make gains for those who are keeping steadfast under the oppression of occupation before the torch is extinguished. The initiative is also aimed at filling the political vacuum which has resulted from the failure of last year's attempts to convene an international conference. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] In your assessment, has the uprising created a new force backing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly one of the main problems of the Palestinian revolution—dictated by its complicated and special circumstances on the local, pan-Arab, and international levels—is the fact that it erupted, crystallized its structure, created its leadership, and formed its cadres outside occupied Palestine. It had no other option. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly the Palestinian masses' uprising in the occupied territories on such a scale proves the PLO's success in preserving the revolutionary fertility and spirit of the inhabitants in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as its ability to use the masses' spontaneity and creative initiative skillfully and flexibly to serve the PLO's urgent political objective. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] Since Shamir rejects the initiative and the U.S. position does not support it fully, do you believe that the initiative still maintains the driving force necessary for its implementation?

[Ghali] I can confirm that the Egyptian initiative has, despite all Israel's various attempts to besiege it, managed to find its way to the centers of influence and decisionmaking in the states that President Mubarak visited during his recent European-U.S. tour. It encountered a widespread response in ruling circles and public opinion. In fact, it even extended beyond this framework because it simply expresses the voice of truth, justice, and the legitimate rights of any people, anywhere, at any time.

The best proof of the initiative's success and ability to maintain its driving force is the division it has caused within the highest ruling levels in Israel and the Jewish-U.S. organizations concerned. Furthermore, I can say that the American side has begun to respond to the need to reactivate the Palestinian problem in response to the initiative. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] What measures has Egypt taken through its channels with Israel to stop the continuing attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque and the violation of the holy places?

[Ghali] Through its channels with Israel, Egypt is working toward serving its Arab and national diplomatic objectives by dealing with all parties. Foremost among them are the Palestinian parties in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the Israeli organizations that recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and finally the ruling parties in Israel, especially the Labor Party in the coalition government. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] What do you expect from the uprising?

[Ghali] In brief, the Palestinian uprising is one of those events that establish themselves on the ground of reality and leave their mark on future developments. The uprising has brought the Palestinian cause to light again and placed it in the set of international priorities and interests. It also carries with it the beginning of large-scale changes within Israeli society itself and major impacts on the peace process in the Middle East that could force Israeli leaders, who have insisted on not recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, to raise questions they have tried to avoid for so long.

The uprising was embarked on by young people under 20, who were born and grew up under an occupation that uses all kinds of repression and oppression as well as attempts to erase identities. Despite all this, the torch of freedom has never been extinguished inside them. This confirms the futility of Israeli policy, because everything that Israel has tried to impose as a fate accompli over 20 years has failed. Since the uprising erupted from within, it has, for the first time, placed Israel in the security dilemma it has always promoted just to justify its expansionist policy.

The problem is not to do with infiltrations across borders that can be responded to, but is primarily a political one of a people refusing to remain a prisoner of occupation indefinitely. All these factors opened the doors to the Palestinian uprising. They provide major prospects for continuing and developing the struggle, but their pain can be absorbed by convening an international conference and agreeing to establish an independent Palestinian state; those opposing the convening of such a conference will find themselves pushing Israel into the fire. If that happens, many people will lose, and the Palestinian people will be the only winners. [passage omitted]

## AAPSO Symposium Celebrates Unity With Syria

### 'Abd al-Majid Message Read

*NC221725 CAiro MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the heroic Palestinian uprising in the face of the sophisticated Israeli military arsenal is substantial proof that unity and solidarity are powerful weapons by which nations can fight for their rights and confront their problems.

In a message which Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi read out at the opening session of a symposium organized by the Egyptian AAPSO Committee to mark the 30th anniversary of the unification of Egypt and Syria, 'Abd al-Majid said that the valiant stand taken by the Palestinians is the best commemoration by an Arab people of Egyptian-Syrian unity. The Palestinian stand, he said, is a lesson that gives us inspiration and guidance in our march to the future.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid, in his message, asserted that the experience of Egyptian-Syrian unity has taught us the importance of finding the "right formula," and of taking account of the objective circumstances of the Arab world. He added that both national and pan-Arab considerations should be blended carefully when ways of confronting the challenges facing the Arab world are examined.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that joint Arab action is faced with mounting challenges at the present. Foremost among these challenges are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war, two regional problems that sap the resources of the area and push it to the brink of total dstruction. Dr 'Abd al-Majid also referred to the problem of increased superpower hegemony on the international level and greater superpower involvement in regional conflicts.

Among the challenges facing the Arabs, 'Abd al-Majid said, is the problem of lingering underdevelopment in the Arab world, which contrasts sharply with its richness in terms of material resources. He noted that the current international economic system subjects developing countries to unequal conditions in their dealings with the more advanced countries.

All this, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said, means that more coordination and solidarity are needed in the Arab world.

Speaking of the experience of Egyptian-Syrian unity, 'Abd al-Majid said that regardless of the pros and cons of the episode, it would remain, from the pan-Arab perspective, a rich source of knowledge capable of shedding light on the history of the Arab national struggle and of giving guidance for the future.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid hailed the experience of Egyptian-Syrian unity as a pioneer attempt to make a dream which had long appealed to Arab imagination come true. He described it as a partial attempt to eliminate barriers created by foreign powers and to merge the Arabs in "one entity." It was an ambitious enterprise that stumbled due to regional and international factors, 'Abd al-Majid asserted. He said that this should not diminish the importance of solidarity among the Arabs in the face of challenges. [passage omitted]

## PLO's Al-Hurani Speaks

*NC240600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani has stressed the PLO's reception of any meeting between Palestinian figures from the occupied Arab territories and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during the latter's upcoming visit to Israel.

Speaking tonight at the closing sesion of the symposium organized by the Egyptian AAPSO Committee to mark the 30th anniversary of the unity experiment between Egypt and Syria, the Palestinian official said that this stand underlines the Palestinians' rejection of the recently declared U.S. plan for civilian administration in the occupied territories. He told the symposium that there can be no meeting with Shultz except through the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He stressed that there can be no solution for the Palestinian people without the organization.

The Palestinian official added that the occupied territories will witness throughout next week, which he termed 'Shultz week,' demonstrations and strikes protesting the visit. [passage omitted]

## Cables Sent to Mubarak, 'Arafat

*NC241408 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—A symposium organized by the Egyptian AAPSO Committee on the 30th anniversary of the unity between Egypt and Syria concluded today its 2-day session in Cairo with a note of appreciation for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's efforts to stop the Gulf war and consolidate Arab solidarity.

The participants in the AAPSO symposium sent a cable to President Mubarak saying: The participants in the unity symposium salute your ideal stands and remarks concerning the need to strengthen Arab solidarity, defend the common objectives of the Arab people, stop the Gulf war, and help the Palestinian regain their rights to self-determination, liberation of their national soil, and a state of their own.

The cable adds: The participants in the symposium particularly laud your remarks concerning the Camp David agreement, making it clear that this agarcement is outdated and no longer in harmony with the times. We are confident you will continue to support the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. The AAPSO Egyptian Committee reiterates its appreciation for your unyielding support to the cause of Arab solidarity.

In addition, the participants in the unity symposium decided to send another cable to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to pay tribute to the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. The cable also stressed the need for moral and material

support to this uprising until the Palestinian struggle is crowned with the attainment of self-determination, the liberation of the national soil, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

The participants called on all the political and popular leaders in the Arab world to mobilize all potential in firmly backing the uprising against attempts to contain or thwart it.

In their final statement the participants voiced the belief that conditions on the Arab arena are favorable for the restoration of solidarity, unity, and democracy.

### Further on Indictment of 'Egypt's Revolution'

#### Spokesman Threatens Action

*JN241721 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic*
*21 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] An anonymous woman phoned AL-WAFD at 1515 yesterday claiming to be the official spokesman of Egypt's Revolution. She emphasized that the organization will continue its tasks due to the large number of its members and that it will shortly carry out some operations. She ended the telephone conversation after dictating this statement which she attributed to Egypt's Revolution.

#### Defendant Attempts Suicide

*NC241050 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic*
*22 Feb 88 p 10*

[Text] Muhammad Nur al-Din, the first defendant in the "Nasirite Egypt's Revolution" case, has tried to take his own life in prison. He was saved, however, and upon interrogation he ascribed his suicide attempt to pressure exerted on him to confess that he was an agent for an Arab country and that the country in question had been the chief bankroller of the organization.

He said that he had also been the victim of psychological torture to make him sign the interrogation file drawn up by the security authorities with the objective of involving the entire 'Abd al-Nasir family in the military operations the organization had carried out. He said, "Do not involve the [former] president's family in this issue and let his pure body rest in peace."

### Daily Notes 'Divisions' in Israeli Society

*NC210738 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Feb 88*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes today that the present situation between the Arabs and Israel has seen a reversal of positions and overturned situations. The crisis of Arab division which has lasted so long is now afflicting the Israeli ranks. The national forces in the occupied Arab territories—which have been lying stagnant and dormant because of divisions among the Palestinian factions over foreign policy—have now become united.

At the same time divisions are racking the forces of Israeli society which used to rally together whenever there loomed an external danger from the Arab side in general or the Palestinians in particular, even if that danger was only mere conjecture.

In its editorial, AL-AHRAM stresses that the internal conflicts in Israel have reached unprecedented dimensions with calls being made there that no one ever thought they would hear. It adds that Israeli propaganda has succeeded in conveying both inside and outside Israel the concept of a single, solid stand in a society of various origins, but recent events have succeeded in smashing this vision. Israeli politicians and military officials are now raising their voices condemning the repressive actions.

They are calling for a change in the leadership and for bringing down the symbols of the regime whose vile actions are threatening Israel's future. Reactions to these measures have also spread to the intellectual elite, who have denounced the practices of the club-wielding general, as they label Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They have also denounced the stands taken by extremist Jewish settlers, who have called for a declaration of war against the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-AHRAM notes that this prominent contradiction in the stands of influential forces now has two principal characteristics. First, it is no longer a mere conflict or discord of statements and views but has moved to the sphere of [word indistinct] action.

Second, it is now reflecting an astonishing [word indistinct] in the stands so that the issue of peace versus war has crystallized in a decisive manner and is being debated in every Israeli home.

## Morocco

### King Hassan II on Arab Issues, Mahgreb, OAU

*JN231527 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic*
*18 Feb 88 pp 2-3*

[Interview with King Hassan II by AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari and AL-MUSAWWAR Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad in the king's palace in Marrakesh—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Question: President Mubarak conveyed to you the results of his talks in Europe and the United States. In view of these talks and his talks with you, do you think there is hope the world and the Arab world will move toward peace?

King Hassan: As I understand from the president—and I think I am not mistaken—he wants to let his initiative take its natural course and interact with events. He does not want to impose it on anybody.

Question: Your Majesty, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon brought about the Fes summit, with its historical achievements. The summit also coincided with President Reagan's intitiative. Although the Fes summit represented the first Arab consensus on a clear peace plan, it lacked a mechanism of action. Now we have President Mubarak's five point initiative. How can we give this rush of intiatives a real mechanism of action?

King Hassan: I think you have a good memory. After the Fes summit, a seven-member Arab committee was formed from Algeria, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, and the Arab League secretary general. It was decided that this committee would tour the world, particularly the capitals of the five permanent member-states of the UN Security Council. I think the trip that I and my delegation made to Washington was successful. However, I think it was possible for this mechanism to be more successful.

Similarly, the trip by our brother His Majesty King Husayn to London, Paris, Moscow, and Beijing was useful and had important results.

I wish the seven-member committee had continued its work. I had the honor of being its chairman. I summoned the committee twice for a meeting to evaluate and analyze the results of its work and determine future steps. Therefore, I sounded out the members on this subject twice. The first time, all of them responded positively except one, so we postponed the meeting. The second time, another member did not respond positively. He said we should delay the meeting.

I felt that certain members of the committee either had no interest in or thought that nothing beneficial would be realized from the committee. The seven-member committee could have moved, but the strength of the committee lies in its being a seven- and not a six- or a five-member committee, and so on. It was formed as a seven-member committee and should remain a seven-member committee.

I said it is not in the interest of the Arabs to present their internal problems to the world. Therefore, we in Morocco stopped interfering. I think the seven-member committee was a mechanism; it was and still is a good mechanism.

Question: Your Majesty, with your permission we will put the question in another form. The invasion of Lebanon has caused the Arab world and the world at large to act. This resulted in the Fes plan. It was the first time that the Arab world had formulated a plan for a solution. Reagan, who is the president of the most powerful country in the world, also acted and submitted a concept for a solution. Then for reasons Your Majesty had explained, the committee which represented the mechanism for action suspended its activities. Now we have the Palestinian uprising, which is once again forcing the Western world and the Arab world to act.

How can we exploit this uprising and transform it into some kind of political action instead of maintaining it as a manifestation of anger by children and young people who are sacrificing themselves?

King Hassan: Allow me to say something here. The PLO was one of the members of the seven-member committee; I forgot to mention this at the beginning. I personally believe, and this is not an analysis but a sixth sense, that what is taking place in the occupied territories will completely change the situation, and not only from a tactical or strategic point of view. No one can claim that what is taking place in the occupied territories is terrorism. It is resistance. Resistance to liberate the individual. The picture has changed legally and morally. We believe that the strategic region of the Arab world must be reconsidered in the wake of the uprising. The two of you are perhaps the first to whom I have said this.

I say the time is ripe for an Arab summit. Not now. Let us wait a month or a month and a half. Let us wait for the uprising to abate. In my humble opinion, I think an Arab summit is needed.

Question: Your Majesty, Arab action could have been weakened over a long period of time as a result of the dismemberment and division that prevailed over the Arab state of affairs. Following the Amman summit, we notice that the Arab world has made great strides on the road to solidarity. Your Majesty, what is strange is that the Egyptians, the Jordanians, the Palestinians all agree to the international conference. This means that all the Arab parties are in agreement on the international conference. However, we believe that the necessary Arab consensus on this issue has not materialized as yet.

King Hassan: Let me tell you the truth. I have already said which parties are directly concerned in this issue. They are the confrontation states whose territories are occupied. These are Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO. They are the ones who must decide. They are the ones that should reunite their ranks. As for us, the other Arab countries, our duty is to support them. If they say yes, we too say yes. If they say no, we do the same. The question of division or dismemberment is theirs to decide. If they unite, all we have to do is bless them.

Therefore, this question should be put to these four parties, which are directly concerned with the issue. [passage omitted]

Question: Let us go back to Your Majesty's view, namely, that certain parties should make decisions because they are concerned with the issue, and that there are

supporting parties. Here we face the problem of Palestinian representation or the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, the joint representation. What are your views on this issue of representation which others are taking as a justification, accusing us of being an obstruction?.

King Hassan: The important thing is that when the 1974 summit decided to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, Egypt was a leading state in this unanimous decision. We should not forget this fact, otherwise we would be like the idolators who make idols of sweets in the morning and eat them up in the evening. This is tampering. In my opinion, the new element does not have anything to do with representations or the legitimacy of the PLO.

The PLO must consider the fact that the important element is represented by the events in the occupied territory. It is an internal issue of the Palestinians which I have nothing to do with. This is a new element. We do not cast doubt on the Palestinian brothers, the sole legitimate representative is the PLO. But my advice is this: Take into consideration the current realities in the West Bank.

Were I a PLO member, I would have sought a way to accept UN Resolution No 242 as soon as possible. This resolution is the egg which had not been there before. Now that this egg is there, it must be placed in an incubator to hatch. If I were the PLO I would accept 242 because of what is happening in the territory. This is just a piece of advice, but the PLO is better informed about its own people. [passage omitted]

When the Jews who had lived in the Arab states began to emigrate, the Labor Party was in power. This party behaved in the wrong way. The Labor Party included many Americans and Europeans and they despised the Jews from the Arab states—from Morocco, Iraq, or Egypt. This meant that these were second-class Jews. As a result, they became a prey to the elections; they fell to the rightists, who welcomed them and treated them nicely, trying to give them due consideration. Of the 600,000 Arab Jews, 350,000 or 400,000 defected to the right and became extremists. Politically, we pray to God that the process will be reversed, at least with regard to the Moroccan Jews who live there. We hope they will be wise in deciding their affiliations.

Question: Can we say that Your Majesty's explorations revealed a change in this respect, that you sensed a political change in favor of Arab rights?

King Hassan: When I met Peres, I found him to be a man of new awareness. Of course he did not reveal everything in his heart. Israel's victory is no longer a foregone conclusion. For Peres, the dangers of war between the Arabs and Israel are mutual and very deep, especially as the Israelis can now do everything with their atomic bombs except drop them on a neighboring state, because they themselves would be affected within 1 or 1 and 1/2 days. This is very important.

Peres told me: Our women and children have never heard the siren. Bomb blasts have never been felt in Haifa or Tel Aviv. If there is war now, bombs will fall on us, artillery shells will fall on us. This is new for us.

This is very important because, as the French say: Fear is the beginning of wisdom.

Question: Your Majesty, is there any relationship between this intensive activity for the unity of the Arab Maghreb and your acceptance of the principle of referendum, between the arrival of the UN commission in the region to prepare for this referendum and what is taking place now? Also, Your Majesty is a man of thought and culture; how do you think we can sensibly reconcile the talk about unity in which boundaries would disappear with this sharp regional conflict?

King Hassan: I think anyone can enter into a partnership with someone else, but he must make sure first that he has the capital. If Morocco wants to enter the Arab Maghreb unity, it must be in control of all of its national soil.

Concerning the Western Sahara, we have based our case on historical arguments, the International Court of Justice, and the tripartite agreement with Spain. Still, some people are contending our case. So we said: Fine, let us hold a referendum. When we agreed to the referendum, those contending the Moroccan affiliation of the Sahara opposed the referendum.

Now, we have no choice but to remain steadfast and back the United Nations so the secretary general can carry out the task entrusted to him to organize the referendum. There is no other way out.

Question: The other parties seem to place obstacles such as the need for direct negotiation and the withdrawal of Moroccan forces. Of course, we would like to see a healthy, integral relationship between Morocco and Algeria, but why all these problems if we are talking about Arab Maghreb unity?

King Hassan: This is strange. When they held the referendum in Algeria after the 1962 Evian independence agreement, they did not demand the withdrawal of the French Army. There were 200,000 or 250,000 soldiers in Algeria. They were in their barracks inside and outside the cities. Our Algerian neighbors did not ask the French to withdraw their Army or administration. So there is no precedence.

Question: What about the issue of direct negotiations?

King Hassan: I am not in favor of direct negotiations. There can only be direct negotiations when the negotiating sides are on the same level. I, who have a flag, borders, citizenship, and a seat in the United Nations, am being asked to negotiate with people who have nothing of the sort—people who are guests in a neighboring country. I cannot possibly lower Morocco's prestige while I am in charge of its sovereignty and values. I cannot lower Morocco's values by holding direct negotiations. It does not become Morocco. It is impossible.

Furthermore, I want internationally recognized borders for Morocco. The reconciliation between Iraq and Iran in Algeria did not spare them from war. The recognition of borders between them was a mere expression of a wish by the two governments. There was no international recognition. So as soon as the shah was removed from Iran and leadership changed in Iraq, matters developed between Iraq and Iran.

I do not want the peace between neighbors to be dependent on one or two persons. I want the Moroccan borders—no matter how—to be safe, secure, and internationally recognized boundaries. Therefore, I am against direct negotiations, even between equals. I want the international seal. If we are to build the Arab Maghreb, there must be no vestiges. All problems must be settled first.

Question: Your Majesty, these activities have started almost immediately after the changes in Tunisia. What are the true relations with Tunisia?

King Hassan: Our relations are good. The relations between us under Bourguiba were also good. They are now good and frank. To be honest, I must say there is mutual faith and frankness.

The Tunisians themselves say: How can there be an Arab Maghreb without Morocco? It is impossible.

For our part, we say how can there be an Arab Maghreb without Algeria, for instance? It is impossible. This is our Tunisian brothers' real feeling on this subject.

Question: Your Majesty, it is obvious there is a switch in alliances, at least as far as Libya is concerned. Libya was associated with Morocco in a unity or agreement. Now it is moving in another direction. When Libya was associated with Morocco it announced the unity of the Maghreb soil and stopped dealing with the Saharans. We now read about a tripartite meeting and a bilateral meeting between Al-Qadhdhafi and Mohamed Abdelazziz. How do you perceive this? Is it a renewal of violence, a return to the situation when the region was sitting on a powder keg?

King Hassan: To tell the truth, we have not seen any change in Libya's position thus far, despite the hostility between us and the fact that we unilaterally broke the unity. As far as we know and as far as we can see on the ground, Libya is still neutral on the subject. God knows what happened at the tripartite meeting. God knows if the leaked news is correct. I cannot say. Although I respect the press I cannot judge by press reports in this matter.

We should recall that our Algerian brothers are giving the impression to our Arab brothers, especially those who offered their good offices and for whom we are thankful, that contacts are continuing between the Algerian brothers and Morocco, that an exchange of ideas is continuing, and so on. Nothing of the kind is taking place. Contacts and exchanges between us are at a standstill. We have received neither a response nor a positive gesture from the Algerian side. However, their diplomacy—I say diplomacy and nothing else—is trying to give the Arab and Islamic states, particularly the mediators, the impression that exchanges and contacts are continuing, that the situation could not be better. This is not true.

Question: Let us move on to African relations. Morocco's relations with the African states is an old issue. I would like to be frank. Some Arab states have placed their differences in the African arena. While we have not been able to establish a correct Arab-African relationship, we helped establish an African trend calling for the establishment of an organization of negroid Africa. How can we evaluate this experiment of putting our Arab problems in the African arena?

King Hassan: First we should know there is now a strong current in Africa calling for an end to inter-Arab disputes and for joining African society. Indeed, they are very pained by this Arab behavior of introducing inter-Arab disputes into the African arena. They are fed up with this Arab political morality. Morocco believes in Africa because we are from Africa and to Africa we will return. [passage omitted]

To the Egyptian public I say that, God be praised, Egypt has always had a positive role in Africa. This is proven by the fact that when part of Egyptian territory was occupied, all the African countries expressed solidarity with Egypt and severed their ties with Israel. If Egyptian-African relations had not been built on a firm, serious basis, the African response would have been different. I am certain that now that Arab flags are seen on the Cairo skyline, the Africans will view Egypt in a different light and reevaluate Egypt's weight in the OAU. This makes us optimistic.

Question: Concerning the Moroccan-African relations that you have just explained, is a reconsideration possible in the near future? Will this decision [of Morocco to withdraw from the OAU] be reconsidered so that Africa will not be robbed of one of its basic pillars, one of its founding member-states—a state of deep-rooted origin, political activity, and eminent position; a pillar of African unity?

King Hassan: I hide nothing from you. I did not leave the OAU before my heart was rent asunder. A person will not leave his friends and be happy about it. However, there are certain principles on which we were brought up. No one will tolerate anyone coming to him and telling him: This part of your country is mine. One of us, either the imaginary republic or Morocco, is unnecessary. On this matter, the referendum will be the arbiter. [passage omitted]

## Sudan

### Al-Mahdi on PLO Warning Against Israeli Raids

*JN241020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated that he has received information from the PLO that Israel might raid Palestinian camps in eastern Sudan, especially the Erkowit camp near the Red Sea. The Sudanese prime minister noted that these possible raids are part of an Israeli plan to bomb the Palestinian camps in the Arab countries.

According to some sources, Israeli reconnaissance planes recently overflew eastern Sudanese areas.

### Al-Mahdi Briefing on South, Rebels, Ethiopia

*JN231100 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 23 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday denied allegations by the SPLA over its clandestine radio that it had sunk two barges in the White Nile on their way to Malakal "Upper Nile Province."

The premier speaking in his weekly press briefing acknowledged that the rebels had attempted to attack a number of barges while on their way to Malakal but he said that the Armed Forces had repulsed those attacks inflictng heavy casualities on the outlaws.

He outlined that the government was exerting its utmost to provide supply material to the south, indicating that the government had laid down a plan to deliver sufficient supplies there until the end of the rainy season.

Commenting on the outcomes of the meeting of the coordinating committee between the co-ruling Ummah and Democratic Unionist Parties, Al-Mahdi said the committee is due to finalize its task by next Sunday.

He said an agreement had been reached between the two parties in the context of the memo of understanding signed earlier between them on the controversial issue of the affiliation of the new state security body.

According to the agreement the body will be affiliated to the prime minister, Al-Mahdi said adding that the new organ would be responsible for the gathering of information and would be without any executive powers." [end quotation mark as received]

On the formation of the Council for the South, Al-Mahdi stressed that although a number of south Sudan deputies had named their candidates to the post of the president and vice president of the Council but the final decision has not been reached yet.

He emphasized that the proposal by the deputies would receive due concern.

He added that the powers of the Council were also not yet determined explaining that there were differences over the issues.

The participation of the southern parties in the forthcoming government will be in accordance with the population ratio he said indicating that they would have five portfolios.

He noted that he had proposed the creation of a post of second deputy premier to be held by a southerner.

Al-Mahdi denied the presence in the country of any sort of hegemony by the Moslems majority on non-Moslems noting that Sudanese people are enjoying their full religious freedoms.

He accused certain circles he did not name of trying to insult the Sudan through propogation of such allegations.

The premier reiterated that his government would not negotiate with the outlaws specially after the signing of the Sudan charter and the formation of a non-governmental committee which would undertake external contacts.

He disclosed that he received a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicating that Israeli enemy was intending to attack Palestinian positions in the Arab world including Sudan in retalliation to the uprising in the occupied land.

Al-Mahdi said the Council of the State invited Chadian President Hissein Habre to visit Sudan within the framework of bilateral relations between the two countries but he said the date of the visit was not determined yet.

Regarding the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian committee Al-Mahdi said the two sides had agreed on the formation and jurisdications of the committee.

He made it clear that the two sides still did not agree on the date and venue of the meeting. He said the issue would be discussed through the diplomatic channels.

## Anya Nya II Leader Visits SPLA Headquarters

*EA231841 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] The leader of Anya Nya II, Major General Gordon Kong Chuol, accompanied by some 11 Anya Nya II senior officers, paid a 2-day visit to the SPLA General Headquarters on 10 February 1988.

They were warmly received and welcomed into the SPLA General headquarter by the member of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and chief of staff, Commander William Nyuan Bany; member of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and deputy chief of staff for administration and logistics, Commander Arok Thuon Arok; and the alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command, Commander Martin Manyiel Ayuwal, amid a population of about 3,000 joyous people singing the slogan: SPLM-SPLA oyee; Long live the unity of the Sudanese people; Forward ever, backward never.

On the following day, 11 February, 1988, Commander William Nyuan Bany, Commander Arok Thuon Arok, Maj-Gen Gordon Kong Chuol, and some of his senior officers addressed a rally which was attended by thousands of cheering crowd. In their speeches, they all lauded the unity between the SPLM-SPLA and the Anya Nya II and pledged to continue with the struggle as one people and one army till victory. [passage omitted]

## SPLA Kills 60 Soldiers in Attacks on Convoy

*EA231847 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] The details of the SPLA operations against the huge enemy convoy along the Juba-Bor road have emerged. According to our correspondent in the area, the enemy convoy, which started from Juba last month, took 26 bitter days to reach Bor. During this period the enemy suffered very heavy casualties in men and materiel as the SPLA engaged them in numerous ambushes. Sixty enemy soldiers were killed, 110 wounded, and 6 vehicles were destroyed and many heavy machine guns and artillery put out of action.

When the enemy found very tough resistance at Sudan-(Safari), it withdrew to Jummayzah on 4 February 1988. The enemy then prepared again in Jummayzah and went back towards Juba-Mongalla road and on the way it diverted to the east of main road following (Total) road and this was on 8 February 1988. Here SPLA forces of Raad Task Force launched several attacks on the enemy convoy and the heaviest attack was launched at a place called (Ahum), east of (Pan Modi) on Sudan-(Safari) road. In this attack great damages were inflicted on the enemy convoy. [passage omitted]

The third and very severe ambush was launched on February 1988 by the forces of Task Force Three. The artillery unit and headquarters company took part in this ambush. [passage omitted]

## Oman

### Sultan Qabus Receives Algerian Foreign Minister

*JN231604 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1300 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, state minister for foreign affairs.

Following the meeting, the guest minister said: I was honored to meet with His Majesty Sultan Qabus, who has come to meet his people's needs. I conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid expressing the Algerian president's pride in the great achievements of His Majesty Sultan Qabus for the Omani people. The message also contains the Algerian people's best wishes for the Omani people, who are enjoying these achievements, as well as Algeria's hopes for further Omani achievements under the wise leadership of his majesty the sultan [words indistinct].

Discussions centered on the uprising in the occupied Arab territorories, the Iraq-Iran war, and ways to support the UN secretary general's efforts to implement Resolution No 598 calling for a peaceful settlement of the war. The Algerian minister concluded his statement by saying that Muscat and Algiers share the same view of these issues. His majesty the sultan's reception of the Algerian minister came on the 4th day of his majesty's tour of the provinces and the citizens' joy over the continued meetings between the leadership and the people.

### Press Release Issued

*LD241052 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*
*0922 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Muscat, 24 Feb (APS)—Following the official visit by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, to the Sultanate of Oman, a press release was issued in which both sides expressed satisfaction over the level achieved in bilateral relations.

It has been agreed to set up a joint committee to look into aspects of cooperation between the two countries, exchanges of views, official coordination between the two foreign ministries, and exchange of visits by delegations.

Concerning their stances on issues of mutual interest, the two sides noted with satisfaction a similarity of opinions. They also dwelled on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. They hailed the protracted uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied land, which needs support and backing.

They also expressed their conviction that a just and lasting solution in the Middle East can only be found through recognition of the firm national rights of the Palestinian people to return, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state on their national territories and that the way to settle this matter is to hold an international conference under UN supervision with the participation of UN Security Council members and all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, the two sides expressed their deep sorrow and concern over the war which [words indistinct] between two neighboring Muslim countries and their worry over the development and persistence of this conflict which threatens not only the stability and security of the whole region but world security and peace, too.

The two sides believe that efforts must focus on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and seek new means providing an opportunity for the UN secretary general to continue his efforts to end the war in a way securing the legitimate rights of both sides in accordance with international laws and charters.

They also reviewed the steps achieved by the process of cooperation and integration in the Arab Maghreb context. They expressed their satisfaction with the Maghreb political consultations [words indistinct] the Arab Maghreb, and support all efforts, including those of the United Nations and the OAU, aimed at ending the conflict in Western Sahara by peaceful means.

## PDRY

### Party Official Meets With Soviet Ambassador

*EA231816 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1230 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, met at his office this morning with Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador in Aden.

During the meeting there was discussion of relations of socialist cooperation between the two friendly countries and peoples and progress in the implementation of economic agreements, especially those on oil exploration and gold prospecting and measures relating to investment.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad expressed appreciation for the steady efforts of the Soviet experts and workers side by side with their Yemeni comrades to expedite the implementation of economic projects.

## Saudi Arabia

### Pakistan's Zain Noorani Ends 1-Day Visit

*LD240325 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 February 88, SPA—The Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, left the Kingdom this evening after a visit which lasted 1 day. [passage omitted]

### Philippine Delegation Extends Stay 24 Hours

*HK230235 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 22 Feb 88*

[Text] The delegation from the Philippines seeking to obstruct international recognition for the Moro National Liberation Front extended its stay by 24 hours in the hope of meeting the Saudi Arabian ruler or the crown prince. The delegation is led by House Speaker Ramon Mitra, who arrived in the Saudi capital late Saturday. They had a meeting yesterday [22 February] with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Mitra wants to put across to the Saudi Government and the 46-nation Islamic Conference Organization the Philippine viewpoint on the move to make the MNLF a full member of the ICO at the forthcoming ministerial session in Amman, Jordan. Mitra is arguing that such a move would upset plans for autonomy for the Muslim-dominated Mindanao region in the southern Philippines. Mitra is accompanied by Congressmen Amado Bagatsing, Michael Mastura, and Abdul (Sakartan).

## United Arab Emirates

### Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

*JN232004 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Feb (WAKH)—Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this evening on a 3-day visit to the UAE.

Upon arrival the Moroccan minister said he is carrying a message from King Hassan II of Morocco to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab arena and the Gulf region. He added that during the visit he will exchange views with Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, on all issues of common interest to both states.

He went on to say he will also attend the meetings of the joint Moroccan-UAE committee. On the situation in the Arab Maghreb region and the efforts being exerted to bring about a unified greater Arab Maghreb, Dr Filali voiced the hope that the region's problems will be resolved through constructive dialogue.

## Yemen Arab Republic

### Further on Visit by Jordanian Foreign Minister

#### Received by President

*JN231458 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister and head of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-YAR higher committee for economic and technical cooperation, at the presidential palace in Sanaa this morning.

The Jordanian foreign minister conveyed a message to President Salih from his brother King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan dealing with the latest developments in both the Arab and international arenas in light of the sweeping popular revolution of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. The message also deals with Arab efforts to support the Palestinian Arab people to continue their struggle and resistance of the Zionist occupation as well as relations between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member.

#### Amman Notes 'Fruitful' Meeting

*JN231721 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Sanaa—His Excellency YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received a message from His Majesty King Husayn today. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri delivered the message to his excellency when he was received by President Salih in the presidential palace in Sanaa today.

Tahir al-Masri said His Majesty King Husayn's message to His Excellency President Salih dealt with important developments in the region, particularly the ongoing courageous uprising of our people in the occupied Arab territories. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Al-Masri said that in his message His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed Jordan's total rejection of any partial or separate solutions and of any moves seeking to abort the blessed uprising. Al-Masri added that King Husayn also affirmed in his message that Jordan will continue to abide by its firm stand calling for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause through convening an international peace conference.

Al-Masri added that he and President Salih assessed the state of affairs in the region and the resolutions adopted by the seven-member Arab committee tasked

with the mission of supporting our people's uprising in the occupied territories which recently convened in Tunis. Al-Masri said his meeting with President Salih was fruitful and constructive and that the viewpoints were identical on all issues discussed. He stressed that contacts, consultations, and coordination between the two fraternal countries will continue for their joint interest.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Sa'd al-Batayinah, Jordan's ambassador in Sanaa.

**Received by Prime Minister**

*JN231515 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received Brother Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian minister of foreign affairs, this morning. During the meeting they reviewed fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to promote them.

They also discussed the work of the second meeting of the joint Jordanian-YAR Higher Committee which began in Sanaa yesterday. They also touched on a number of issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, and Brother Sa'd al-Batayinah, Jordanian ambassador in Sanaa.

### Djibouti President Arrives in Baghdad 23 Feb

*JN231205 Baghdad INA in Arabic*
*1047 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—Djibouti President Hassan Gouled arrived here today on an official visit to Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn headed those who welcomed Gouled. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; RCC members; the head of the presidential office; ministers; and a number of state officials participated in the reception ceremony.

The guest president is accompanied by a delegation comprising Moumin Bahdon Farah, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Ismael Omar Jablah, head of the president's office; Mohamed Ali Shaker, director of protocol at the presidency [last two names as received]; Aden Shaykh Hasan, Djibouti ambassador to Egypt, and Ali Abdou Soltan [name as received], head of the Foreigh Ministry's Arab Department.

President Saddam Husayn accompanied his guest, President Hassan Gouled, on a tour of Baghdad which included a number of the city's areas and sites. During the tour, the guest president was acquainted with Baghdad's cultural sites.

### Holds Talks With President

*JN231931 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic*
*1800 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the Djibouti president held a round of talks on the strong fraternal bilateral relations and the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

President Hassan Gouled reiterated Djibouti's strong support for Iraq in its just defense of its sovereignty and of Arab sovereignty and dignity. The talks dealt with developments of the Arab situation in light of the resolutions adopted at the extraordinary Amman summit. They also revolved around the valiant uprising being staged by the Palestinian Arab people.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and Djibouti President Hassan Gouled have reiterated their support for the Palestinian Arab people's uprising and also for their struggle to attain their legitimate rights. They also reiterated their support for the PLO, considering it the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minsiter; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; and 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, education minister and head of the honor escort mission which is accompanying the guest president; and the president's secretary.

For Djibouti, the talks were attended by Moumin Bahdon Farah, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Ismael Omar Jablah, head of the president's office; and Aden Shaykh Hasan, Djibouti ambassador to Egypt and its ambassador in Baghdad.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hosted a great dinner banquet in honor of Djibouti President Hassan Gouled and the delegation accompanying him. The banquet was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; RCC members; the head of the presidential office; the Cabinet ministers; and a number of state officials.

### Saddam Husayn Interviewed on Gulf War, Syria

*LD241039 Kuwait KUNA in English 0759 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Kuwaiti newspaper editors in Baghdad "early this week" for publication on 24 February]

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 24 (KUNA)—President Saddam Husayn of Iraq has charged that the United Nations hesitance in naming Iran as the side rejecting the repeated calls for peace talks or imposing an arms embargo on it, is encouraging Tehran to dismiss Resolution 598.

After seven months of taking Resolution 598, why is the Security Council still asking what steps should be taken against Iran for rejecting the peace offer, the Iraqi leader wondered in a lengthy interview with the editors of the Kuwaiti newspapers published here Wednesday.

He warned that after almost eight years of war, Iraq will accept nothing short of peace, saying "what we want is an all inclusive solution for the preservation of security, sovereignty and dignity. The one who sacrifices for eight years does not want a truce".

In this connection, he assured the Kuwaiti newsmen in the 150-minute long chat that Iraq was stronger than ever and that the Army was better trained and equipped to meet any fresh aggression, though he doubted Iran was in a position to launch new offensives on Iraq.

The Iranian regime has not been able to gather as many volunteers this year as it did the year before, he said, asking how can Tehran expect a fresh assault to succeed under such reluctance coupled with the worsening internal situation.

The Iraqi president added, however, that it was not the intention of Iraq to harm the Iranian people but to defend the Iraqis and the Arab nation, saying "we will be pleased when we have peace because the Iranian people will enjoy peace."

President Saddam Husayn said he was given to understand that the Soviets were ready to discuss alternatives to the presence of Western fleets in the Gulf and were willing to agree to an embargo on arms shipments to Iran if it persists on rejecting a ceasefire and peace negotiations.

As for China which is believed to be supplying Iran with offensive weapons, the Iraqi leader said the Arab countries are trying to influence Beijing to withhold arms shipments which Iran uses in attacks on the Arabs.

He said it was no secret that Iraq supports the Mujahidin movement in their resistance against the Khomeyni regime explaining that situation was emanating from the fact that both Iraq and the Iranian Mujahidin "not only share a common enemy but also they believe in the same facts."

On possible Arab mediation in the war, Saddam said that the Arab states have no chance of forging an end to the war in light of the efforts geared by the United Nations Security Council and the secretary general.

Mediation between Syria and Iraq could have proven useful before the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman last November but that after the face-to-face meeting between him and Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad during that summit in the presence of Arab leaders there can be no way for mediation.

But he said agreement was reached in the Amman summit and resolutions were issued as the opinions of all the Arabs despite efforts to forge good Iraqi-Syrian relations, he said.

The Iraqi leader said that it would be a mistake to expect or ask for quick results from the current popular uprising in occupied Palestine, warning that asking for quick results "may interfere with the struggle of the Palestinian people."

The uprising has greatly shaken the confidence of the Israelis who, he said, are now beginning to wonder whether they can continue their occupation and maintain their domination on the Palestinians.

What is needed now is to be patient and to support this uprising until the Zionist entity allows the legal rights of the Palestinian people, he said, urging the Arabs to provide the Palestinians with aid as they fight to defend the fate of their people.

Saddam said the Arabs should not forget that the Palestinians have their legitimate representative which is the PLO, adding the Palestinians in the occupied territories carry the flag of resistance and face the Zionists continuously.

He said he believes socialism is the best solution to all social problems but that he was aware of the way it was misused. He maintained though that there are certain activities in which the private sector cannot successfully invest capital and which can only be undertaken by the government.

The Iraqi president was quick to assert at the outset of the interview that his people enjoyed strong relations with Kuwait, saying Kuwaitis are our distinguished brothers.

Iraq has many brothers but only a few of them have distinguished positions, he assured the editors of the Kuwaiti newspapers whom he received in Baghdad early this week.

## Defense Minister Interviewed on War With Iran

*PM231521 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 20 Feb 88 pp 19-21*

[Interview with Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, by Hamidah Na'na' in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Na'na'] This interview takes place at a time of crucial and extremely important international circumstances as far as the Iraq-Iran war is concerned. It takes place after Iran's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and its insistence on holding Iraq responsible for starting the war and on what it calls "punishment" of the Iraqi regime before a cease-fire could be accepted. It takes place in the wake of significant changes in Arab-Iranian relations as clearly reflected in the resolutions adopted by the Amman emergency Arab summit conference.

These resolutions included, for the first time, a strong and firm Arab condemnation of Iran and of Iran's determination to continue the war. It also takes place against a background of mounting Iranian threats to launch the big offensive for which Iranian preparations have been in progress for months. The question is: How do you assess the general situation and how ready are you to repulse the Iranian offensive if such an offensive is launched?

[Khayrallah] First let me say that as far as the war is concerned we have the military option and we also have the political option. As the Armed Forces, it is our duty to act as if we were in the first day of the war. We repulse aggression and work seriously for an honorable peace. Although Iran is internationally isolated ideologically and ethically, it still makes punishment of the aggressor

a precondition for accepting Resolution 598. We have said: Fine, but who is to say who the aggressor was? It should either be a neutral international body such as the Security Countil or a committee acceptable to both sides.

The Iranian rulers know very well what they did from 4 to 22 September 1980 and they realize that if Iran went to the international courts it would be condemned. That is why it wants Iraq to be branded outright as the aggressor and that is illogical. If it is sure that Iraq is the aggressor why does it not accept arbitration? Iran insists on fighting because it thinks it could get compensation and then attack Iraq in the future on the pretext it had grounds. Many states have fought and have tried local, international, and regional fighting this century. International circles always intervene to stop the fighting, bring about direct or indirect negotiations for disengagement, and settle the dispute which the two warring parties fail by diplomatic means to resolve.

[Na'na'] Apart from being a military man, you are a man of law (with a degree in law and political science from Al-Mustansiriyah University in 1976). I therefore ask you: Which are the international bodies that are qualified for arbitration between you and Iran?

[Khayrallah] From our study of law we know there is an International Court of Justice in the Hague which the warring parties could go to. It consists of 15 independent judges independently elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council regardless of nationality. They are renowned for their qualifications and honesty. The parties to the conflict send their representatives and are also entitled to seek the help of anyone. They submit sufficient memoranda, documents, and evidence. Each side is given ample time to consider all priorities and to seize every opportunity to prove its rights. Why does Iran reject that?

Iran has rejected recourse to the court of justice and it has rejected the mediation of the good offices committee and of the Islamic mediation committee and has rejected arbitration by the nonaligned states and rejected UN resolutions. It is inconceivable that all these international bodies are anti-Iran and pro-Iraq, and if they are then it must mean Iraq is right and Iran does not want to heed the wishes of the international community.

[Na'na'] What about the Iranian concentrations on the Iraqi front and Iraq's readiness to deal with that?

[Khayrallah] The current concentrations are coupled with demagogic statements by the ruling clique in Tehran, which is nothing new. That clique is in a state of continuous and increasing hysteria as it tries to arouse hostile fanaticism and urges young and elderly people to go to the front. After long years of war, that is neither new nor surprising to us. We have noticed how from time to time and from offensive to offensive the names are changed. There is the Karbala' offensive, the dawn offensive, and the victory offensive.

Each offensive has a number and carries its own promises. The officials in charge of continuing the war sometimes give the simpletons keys to heaven, and sometimes they tell the misled: Around such and such a corner or behind such and such hill is Karbala'. The purpose of all this is to push the children and the elderly toward the minefields. However, this method, which the Iranians have used since the beginning of the war, has been futile. Iraq is ready to repulse any attack and it will remain lofty and mighty, standing firmly, strongly, proudly, and impregnably on its own feet.

[Na'na'] Mr Minister, you say Iraq stands ready to repulse any attack and it will stand, high and mighty, on its own feet. So far Iran has indeed failed to achieve victory against Iraq. For 7 years Iraq has been repulsing the fiercest attacks. To us Arabs, Iraq's steadfastness in this vicious war is an extremely important phenomenon because it demonstrates that with will and determination victory is possible and steadfastness is possible.

The Arab armies have, in their wars with Israel, been accustomed to something that is quite the opposite. These have been lightning wars which, if protracted, as in the 1973 war, put the Arabs in a critical position. I, therefore, want to ask you about the secret of the Iraqi Army's ability to continue to fight this war for 7 years without allowing its enemy to score victory?

[Khayrallah] The war, in my view, ended militarily in the 1st year. In the battlefield it is the first strikes which determine which of the two adversaries is more capable of delivering the blow which renders all subsequent attempts ineffective. The Iranian rulers should have long understood and stopped, but they are more like a gambler who, sensing loss at the beginning, continues to gamble in the hope of winning, until he loses everything. You can imagine how desperate is the military mentality which awaits winter to help it achieve victory when prior to that it had counted on summer to do so, and then on the fall, and spring, in addition to other illusions. What was the result?

If we look at the war records we would see what happened to the thousands and thousands they amassed for the past rainy season and the one before it. They banked on the seasons, on the mountains, on the marshes, and on the plains but what have they reaped? Nothing but storms because they sowed a wind instead of planting love, cooperation, and fruitful work on the borders with their neighbors. Iran is dying. The continuation of the war gives it a chance to divert the demagoguery to the front to keep the regime alive as I have already said, but Iraq is in a continuous upward motion and if the war stops it would stage a great renaissance because we have already found alternatives and numerous channels for our economy and foundations.

We have a leadership which works, plans, and thinks as one man and our people are united but, against that, what do we see in Iran? In Iran today there are real

problems in every field and there is more and more deterioration. Add to that the fact that, as known, we withdrew to our international borders in 1982 and since that date all of Iran has been coming frequently to fight us in one position? What has the result been? Occupation of 1 or 4 km of border territory here and there where there are no gold mines, oilfields, or big cities.

These areas, to us, are dear national territories as dear to us as any inch of Baghdad,but our view and our conviction is that sooner or later they will lose any foothold they may have gained. I am not revealing a secret when I say that in 1983 it was by mistake and accident that they came upon the oil-rich area of Hawr al-Huwayzah which, as they were in their boats looking for dry land, they found by accident and then clung on to it.

[Na'na'] It has been said there are Iraqi inhabitants in Hawr al-Huwayzah.

[Khayrallah] No, there are no inhabitants, just Iraqi and Arab laborers working in the oil sector in the ridge set in the water and known as the northern and southern Majnun fields. Since they [the Iranians] entered that area we have been able, in small operations, to recapture all but 1 KM of southern Majnun. God willing, we will expel the Iranians from northern Majnun too.

[Na'na'] Western observers claim that Iran is occupying some Iraqi border territory. What is the area of that territory and how capable is Iraq of regaining it?

[Khayrallah] I have already mentioned the Majnun fields area where they are now only holding a very small area believed to be 4 km wide and 4 km long. It is surrounded by two Iraqi armies which pound it daily with artillery, mortar, tank, and heavy machinegun fire. It is known that the Iraqi Army and Air Force do not stop their attacks.

After the 1984 battle, correspondents from all over the world came to the area and took pictures of the great numbers of Iranian bodies on the ridge where they were piled up in ditches 2 meters apart. They suffered the same losses in 1985. As regards last years battles, Rafsanjani himself said: We sent 600,000 fighters. The fighting lasted from 24 December to 27 April. We ask Rafsanjani what happened to these men?

[Na'na'] Fine. Today, how ready is Iraq to repulse an Iranian offensive should such an offensive take place?

[Khayrallah] Iraq has this time taken all the necessary military measures to render all their concentrations futile. It awaits them calmly and confidently for the simple reason that, in the face of this idiotic insistence on their part, we are destined to defend our country all the way. At the beginning of the aggression the Tehran rulers counted on an explosion occuring from within. In other words, they were under the illusion they could foment sedition inside [Iraq] that would make it easier for them to strike at the giant achievements of the people since the 17-30 July revolution and to penetrate to the point of, God forbid, turning Baghdad into something like the wounded Lebanon.

The plot was even more dangerous than that because its aim was to divide Iraq into three weak sectarian statelets shared by Iran and Zionism. Surprised by the Iraqi people's deep-rooted unity, Khomeyni and his clique then began to set preconditions for ending the war. They banked on scoring a military victory but they have failed for over 7 years.

[Na'na'] On a military level in 1987 Iran tried to expand the war by threatening some Arab Gulf states. It also tried to divide Arab ranks. It failed in both attempts. The Amman summit resolutions came as a strong Arab condemnation of Iran's determination to continue its war against Iraq and as all-out official Arab support for an end to the war on the basis of Resolution 598.

[Khayrallah] At first, surprised by the Iraqi people's strong unity and cohesion, Khomeyni and his clique began making preconditions for ending the war. They banked on scoring a military victory but failed for over 7 years and Iraq stood fast. Then they tried to expand the war by committing aggression against other Arab states and by promoting acts of piracy and terrorism imagining this time that Iraq's steadfastness is a result of Arab aid.

No doubt everyone remembers their threats to the Arab Gulf states and their attempts to enlist the support of certain Arab states but, to their surprise, they were faced with a complete rejection of their actions and that rejection manifested itself practically in the Amman emergency summit conference. So, they have failed in every sinister attempt and malicious objective. They will be sorry when it is too late.

[Na'na'] How do you assess Iranian-Israeli and Iranian-American cooperation? The Irangate scandal has shown that, despite the fall of the shah and contrary to the general belief, the Iranian regime has not severed its ties with Israel and the United States.

[Khayrallah] We never, from the very beginning, had any illusions about the Iranian regime's links with Zionism. As soon as they sensed loss they turned to the Zionist entity for help, then they coordinated with that entity openly on matters of expertise and armament. However, Zionism (in Israel) and Khomeynism in Iran are losing and getting more fustrated every day. Iraq is strong continuously; it has gained skills it never had before, its Armed Forces and their formations have expanded, and our Army is now experienced in protracted war and war economy.

[Na'na'] What about military industries?

[Khayrallah] We have long been engaged in an advanced military industries experiment. I want to emphasize on this occasion that the military and political balances of power are not in favor of Iran and the Iranian rulers are well aware of that. As the Iranian regime gets more and more isolated, Iraq is earning more and more respect in international circles and in the world at large and is broadening its base of cooperation with its Arab brothers with a clear conscience and extreme resolve.

Furthermore, Iraq is respected for advocating an end to the war and for accepting all peaceful endeavors including Resolution 598 which reflects Iraq's own desire for peace and respect for international law and charters.

[Na'na'] How does the Iraqi defense minister view his own role in the longest war fought by the Arabs in their modern history? How do you assess the 7-year experiment of war and is Iraq prepared to defend the Gulf states if Iran should contemplate aggression against them?

[Khayrallah] As defense minister I discharge my command duties sincerely and, together with my command colleagues and on the directions of Armed Forces Commander in Chief Marshal Saddam Husayn, I take all necessary measures to strengthen our front and foil any dastardly enemy attempts regardless of what happens on the international level and regardless of the political attitudes of the big powers. That is because our firm rule is to defend wherever there is aggression, honestly and precisely carrying out the instructions of the political leadership.

As regards reliance on present or future resolutions or on intercession by the big powers to stop the war, we would be proud to do so and would want to do so if it were taken seriously as a way of promoting stability and security in the region and of imposing sanctions against the aggressor and against the side which shuns international will. Apart from that, we stand resolutely ready to confront and fight aggression no matter how long the conflict may last. This readiness is not confined to Iraq. If our brothers in the Arab Gulf asked us to support them in repulsing any sinful Iranian aggression, we would be willing to do so.

Our pan-Arab commitments are part of the principles from which we never depart. Arab land is just as dear to us as our own land and it is in this context that we view our defense of our territory with pride, satisfaction, and conviction. We thank God for giving us the strength and the patience in upholding right against wrong and for exposing to the whole world the practices of the rejected group in Iran which has perpetrated a premeditated, spiteful, and serious plot against the entire Arab nation.

## UK's David Mellor Arrives in Baghdad 24 Feb

*JN241039 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)—David Mellor, minister in the British Foreign Office, arrived in Baghdad at dawn today within the framework of a tour of Arab states. Mellor will hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

In a statement upon arrival, David Mellor said that during the visit he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest, particularly the Iraq-Iran war. He pointed out his country has prepared a new formula for a resolution imposing an embargo on arms sales to the party that rejects UN Security Council Resolution 598. He added this formula is now being discussed by the UN Security Council's 15 member states.

## Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

*JN241233 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1147 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with David Mellor, minister in the British Foreign Office, today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the good existing relations between Iraq and Britain. They also dsicussed the situation in the Arabian Gulf region, Iran's insistence on continuing the war and threatening security and stability there, and the current deliberations in the UN Security Council to issue a complementary resolution to Resolution 598 embargoing arms sales to Iran for its rejection of the UN Security Council resolution.

Mellor and 'Aziz also discussed current developments in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian uprising against occupation.

## Communique No 3,031 Details 22-23 Feb Combat

*JN231814 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Communique No 3,031 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With hearts filled with faith in God and in the victory which he promised will be the lot of his benevolent slaves, our victorious forces continue to inflict the punishment of right on the clique of deception which is ruling in Iran. Following are the results of our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector engaged the enemy troops facing them with various weapons and inflicted the following losses: 31 scoundrels killed; 6 infantry positions and 1 observation post destroyed; 1 bulldozer and 1 wheeled shovel [preceding word in English] destroyed; 2 120-mm mortar guns destroyed; 8 vehicles of various types burned and destroyed; and 1 machinegun and 1 107-mm tubular rocket launcher destroyed.

2. Nine enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Two scoundrels were killed and four infantry positions and two observation posts were destroyed and one wheeled shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One 106-MM gun was destroyed and its occupants were either killed or wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Seven enemy personnel were killed and three infantry positions and two hovercraft were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector managed to destroy two infantry positions and two machine uns and to damage one wheeled shovel [preceding word in English] and to blow up three ammunition dumps.

7. The valiant Al-'Amiq Port force yesterday thwarted an attempt to approach the port by five enemy boats and forced these boats to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 February 1988.

## Foreign Ministry Confirms Bechtel Pipeline Offer

*TA240641 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Feb 88 pp 1, 10*

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Bechtel Corporation, acting through businessman Bruce Rappaport, proposed in September 1985 to Foreign Minister Peres that it sell oil to Israel at reduced rates for 10 years in exchange for an Israeli pledge not to attack the projected Iraqi oil pipeline to Al-'Aqabah, Foreign Ministry sources confirmed for the first time last night.

But the offer, which would have resulted in annual savings of $65-70 million, was never conveyed by Peres to the other ministers or officials negotiating the Israeli position on the pipeline.

Sources close to Peres continued to deny that the offer included a proposal to funnel funds to the Labour Party. They said that Peres had "not treated the matter with any seriousness" and, therefore, had not reported it.

According to Rappaport, the sources noted, Bechtel, the main contractor of the pipeline, had claimed that the oil sales would have to be conducted through a third party to keep the sales a secret from the Iraqis and the Jordanians.

Asked in Nabulus yesterday about the Wallach-Meese memo, Peres said: "No one said he gave the Labour Party anything or proposed anything to the Labour Party. As far as I'm concerned, it's complete nonsense."

Earlier, a Foreign Ministry aide close to Peres told the ASSOCIATED PRESS: "Mr. Peres did not see a penny out of this, and neither did the Labour Party.

"We repeatedly have denied the whole story," he said. "No money was offered to Mr. Peres and if it had been, he would have thrown the man out the window."

Well-placed sources in Jerusalem expressed amazement last night when informed of the offer made to Peres. They said that it was inconceivable that Peres would have kept such an offer secret and, further, that there was no reason for Bechtel to buy something "that it was getting for free anyway."

According to the Foreign Ministry, Bechtel asked Rappaport to approach Peres when the oil-project deal appeared to have fallen through. Peres was asked to approach Attorney-General Edwin Meese and to ask which administration official Israel should contact regarding the project, as Secretary of State George Shultz had excluded himself from dealing with the pipeline because of his past association with Bechtel.

The sources said that Meese had replied that the matter should be taken up with then National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

Former Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General Hanan Bar-On said last night that no financial offer had ever been made in connection with oil pipeline.

He said that financial matters had been raised only in connection with the need to compensate Israel—and perhaps, Jordan as well—for the ecological damage which would be caused by building

Bar-On told THE JERUSALEM POST that the thinking in Israel had been that if the pipeline was built, Iraq and Jordan would be deterred from attacking Israel for fear that the pipeline would be damaged in any Israeli offensive.

Economics Minister Gad Ya'aqobi, who with then Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin participated in the decision-making concerning the pipeline, also said yesterday that no mention was ever made of any financial offer.

In 1981, Bar-On suggested that Israel propose the construction of an Iraqi oil pipeline to the port of Haifa. Then Foreign Minister Shamir referred the matter to then Prime Minister Menahem Begin and talks on various versions of the proposal were held with American officials throughout the early 1980s.

In 1984, then-U.S. Ambassador to Israel Sam Louis asked Bar-On what Israel's stand was on the proposed pipeline to Al-'Aqabah. Bar-On answered that Israel would agree never to attack the pipeline and such an answer was conveyed formally and orally by then Defence Minister Moshe Arens to Shultz in a meeting in London on June 5, 1984.

Peres also discussed the matter with Shultz and McFarlane through late 1984 and early 1985. The Bechtel offer to Israel was apparently made after plans to build the pipeline had fallen through, when the company was interested in reviving the project.

Likud Knesset caucus chairman MK [Knesset Member] Hayim Kaufman and Tehiya Chairman MK Yuval Ne'eman last night demanded an investigation of the allegations against Peres.

Tehiya said that Peres should sue his detractors for libel, "since Peres also has an interest in clearing the name of the Labour Party, if there is no truth in the allegations against it."

### Shamir Recalls No Financial Deal on Pipeline

*TA240907 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Feb 88 p A2*

[Excerpt] "I have never had any objection in principle to the 1985 Iraqi pipeline plan running along the southern part of Israel, but this never reached the practical stage. I cannot recall any financial matter being mentioned in that context even once," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told MA'ARIV last night.

A senior Likud minister raised some questions regarding related documents that U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese's counselors made public. He told MA'ARIV: "I believe this is a most serious attempt to conceal something far more significant. Since when does a minister make a U.S. citizen, even a friend, privy to such a top secret matter?" [passage omitted]

## More on Shultz Visit, U.S. Peace Initiative

### Shamir Ready for 'Alterations'

*TA240827 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Feb 88 pp A1, 2*

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, Menahem Rahat, 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will present Shultz with the autonomy plan as the sole basis for a discussion on a settlement in our region. The Likud ministers decided on this last night at the end of a lengthy political debate on what the Likud's position should be in anticipation of the talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

In the meeting, Shamir expressed the opinion that Shultz' visit will not produce any dramatic resolutions. "We want peace, but will not forego our security. We are prepared to make alterations in the Camp David Accords, as warranted by the changing times. I can hardly envisage any other basis for alterations," Shamir said. [passage omitted]

Shamir told MA'ARIV: "The Camp David agreements are not an example of inflexibility. On the contrary, they are a very strong affirmation of Israeli concessions. We gave up a lot and took risks. What else have we to concede?"

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said: "If the Arabs raise a precondition and we raise ours, ultimately we will not have an opening for peace negotiations. The right way is to open the negotiations without preconditions. If the Likud insists on the Camp David Accords, let it. The question is whether or not we are seeking a way to open the door to peace. The problem is not one of formalities. I believe unconditional negotiations would be the best thing to do. There has never been a decision to present Camp David as a precondition."

### Peres Assesses Shultz Visit

*TA231808 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent during a visit to Nabulus 23 February—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Peres, during your tour today you met local inhabitants. You heard them discuss their political ambitions. Are you worried by what you heard?

[Peres] I am worried. I told them that just as we have to take into consideration their political aspirations they have to take into consideration our security concerns. It is inconceivable that the needs of only one nation should be addressed. What they need should be addressed, but at the same time our needs should also be addressed. We have to find the way to bridge these two things.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the gap can be bridged by political means?

[Peres] If we consider the alternative, then the answer is yes. What is the alternative, to live with war and hatred forever?

[Correspondent] Mr Peres, how do you assess the prospects of Secretary of State Shultz's visit to Israel. There is already talk that this mission is doomed to failure.

[Peres] Those people saying this are very rash. I appreciate the fact that he is coming, because without his arrival the situation would be even more difficult. We must do everything possible to ensure the success of the mission and to bring about negotiations.

[Correspondent] Are you optimistic about this mission?

[Peres] I have been optimistic all my life.

[Correspondent] But how about this particular mission?

[Peres] I do not want to guess. I am only saying that without it the situation would have been more difficult.

### Levi on 'Dangers' of Plan

*TA240800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Excerpt] [Ro'e] Our first guest this morning is Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. Good morning to you.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Ro'e] Last night, the Likud ministers, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, decided that the negotiations with Shultz will be conducted in accordance with the Camp David Accords exclusively. Out of sheer curiosity, could you tell us since when has Shamir, who, as will be recalled, abstained in the Knesset vote that ratified these accords, suddenly begun to adhere so steadfastly to the Camp David agreements?

[Levi] First of all, one must bear in mind the particular circumstances under which we live. Our reality is that we have a government founded on accepted principles and political guidelines. These basic guidelines have not changed, and in the absence of a new Cabinet resolution, this is the Cabinet's position, to which Mr Shamir adheres.

[Ro'e] Not only does Shamir currently regard himself as committed to the Camp David Accords, but in an interview in today's MA'ARIV, he declares that we are prepared to, quote, accept alterations in the Camp David Accords as warranted by the passage of time, end of quote. What kind of alterations?

[Levi] I have no idea what alterations the prime minister had in mind. At any rate, we adhere to the Cabinet's position—namely, a political stance advocating direct and unconditional negotiations with those of our neighbors who are interested in making peace with us. Thus, instead of this whirlpool into which we find ourselves being dragged...[changes thought] I admit some people view it differently, maintaining that the desire for peace is the same as peace itself and ignoring the stumbling blocks along the way. Such people exist, and they are dangerous.

An agreement does exist and we must therefore be faithful to it, seeing that the U.S. President was a signatory to it. In this case, the U.S. President is dispatching his secretary of state on his behalf to launch an initiative which I must call new and which conflicts with the accords. It is confusing. There have been attempts to sell it to Israel as if it were the Camp David Accords.

At the same time, there is a parallel move of trying to sell the plan to the Arabs by telling them it would give them back nearly all of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. This is something which both parties that make up the Cabinet oppose. We must be realistic about the proposal and see it in its true light. I do not believe that some minor cosmetic change will make it acceptable either to us or to the other party. If it is a package deal, it is dangerous to Israel.

[Ro'e] You claimed that Israel is prepared to engage in negotiations unconditionally. Is Husayn therefore misleading the Americans by arguing—an important issue of sovereignty—that Israel's position is that the territories are nonnegotiable?

[Levi] No. Take a look at what is actually happening. In fact, we have an agreement, but we are urged to forgo it. The accord stipulates a certain period that could be conducive to creating an atmosphere of dialogue, a period of several years of autonomy, after which we would sit down for direct negotiations over the final status. Now we are asked to forget that, too. We are actually called upon to do something which has no parallel in negotiations between countries.

First of all, we do not yet have a meeting with Husayn. Second, as a precondition to the negotiations, we are asked to make an a priori commitment to the resolutions that would conclude the negotiations which, to satisfy King Husayn, have not yet been launched. Only someone of an unsound mind would fail to see this danger. The negotiations are thereby rendered utterly useless. A shortened autonomy becomes a farce, because if it is shortened and we are expected to enter into negotiations on the final status within 6 months, this then becomes the corridor through which Israel will be led to an organized transfer of all the territories—I repeat, all the territories, including Jerusalem—to alien rule.

[Dayan] Mr Levi, if I read you correctly, you leave no stone unturned in your review of the Shultz plan. Are you saying that Israel will talk to the U.S. secretary of state only out of courtesy and politeness?

[Levi] I understand that we are living in a time when stones are in vogue. I will not comment on your statement on stones. There are certain components which contradict each other.

[Dayan] Which is to say that you are rejecting the plan lock, stock, and barrel. You in fact said as much to U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering when, for some odd reason, he invited you to a meeting.

[Levi] If you say for some odd reason, then I have news for you.

[Dayan] I know, he summoned others, too.

[Levi] No, but let me speak for myself only. This is not the first time that I have met with Mr Pickering. In fact, we meet quite regularly and discuss matters. I believe that if the United States wants to win Israel's faith and trust—and this is not a trivial matter, as without Israel nothing will work out, and we are not on the verge of capitulation—then negotiations based on a concept that should be shared by friends would, I would say, have to make sure that a situation in which the Americans can claim they have misunderstood us does not arise.

Some people believe that all the dangers notwithstanding, we should let Shultz try. But then it would turn out that we had misled him. If he is not aware of the fact that even the Alignment sees very serious hazards, and should he shuttle back and forth between the capitals and then return here, will we then tell him that we actually

never meant this and had hoped that the Arabs would foil his initiative? This would create a stalemate and a confrontation with the United States, and this is something that must be prevented at all costs. [passage omitted]

## Basyuni on Egypt's Stance

*TA211620 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 88*

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni by Dan Margalit in English—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Mr Ambassador, we know that the Shultz initiative includes three elements: 1) an international element in April which is actually the international conference; 2) in October, to conclude an interim agreement which is actually the autonomy plan; 3) in December all of us will begin the negotiations to work on the comprehensive agreement. Is this initiative acceptable to the Egyptian Government?

[Basyuni] As a principle, we accept and we welcome any initiative which will lead to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in our area. But, we do believe that any initiative must include the international conference and the principle of land for peace.

[Margalit] Does it include it?

[Basyuni] Let us wait till Mr Shultz comes to the area and tells us the details because these are still ideas. We think that when Mr Shultz comes to the area we will know more details.

[Margalit] Your foreign minister today was quoted by the Voice of Israel as saying that he warned the United States not to bring up again the autonomy plan. Why not? You signed on the Camp David agreement.

[Basyuni] Yes. You know that 3 years we tried autonomy talks, and we held about 34 sessions in the experts level and about 13 sessions in the ministerial level. Unfortunately, we could not reach agreement because our views were completely different from the views of Israel at that time, because we do believe that the autonomy must be for land and for people, and the Israeli delegation at that time insisted on autonomy for people only.

[Margalit] Could you comment about a call that was also announced in the radio that the foreign ministers in the Arab League called on the inhabitants in the West Bank and Gaza to continue the disturbances during Mr Shultz' visit.

[Basyuni] You know that there is a Palestinian problem, and we must have a solution for this problem. We can't live with this status quo. There is a problem, and we must find a quick solution for this problem.

[Margalit] You don't want to relate to the disturbances themselves.

[Basyuni] It is an uprising, not disturbances in my view.

[Margalit] Uprising?

[Basyuni] Yes.

[Margalit] Mr Ambassador, suppose the Shultz shuttle does not succeed. So, we can continue to live in the status quo, with a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

[Basyuni] You know, when we signed the peace treaty in 1979, this treaty did not aim at a separate or partial peace. It aimed at a first step for achieving the comprehensive peace in our area. As you know, the separate peace is a fragile one but the comprehensive peace is a strong peace. This peace cannot be shaken by storms.

So, now I would like to ask a question. Before I ask this question would like so much to assure you that our strategy is a strategy of peace, now and in the future. But, for how long can the peace between Egypt and Israel exist as a partial or a separate peace?

[Margalit] Maybe the Egyptians are not so strong in their support of the peace treaty, and that's the explanation to what you found in Egypt, a group like the one that was headed by the son of the late President al-Nasir.

[Basyuni] Where is the majority? Always you will find extreme people and radical people in any place in the world. You will find them in France, in Israel itself, in any place. But where is the majority? The majority in Egypt are supporting peace, and President Mubarak declared always that the strategy of Egypt is a strategy of peace. These people number about 20 or 18 only. But what is 18? We are about 52 million in Egypt. If you find only 18, no problem. I am speaking about the majority who are supporting peace.

[Margalit] I would like to ask you only one more question. If you want to encourage the peace and support it and so on, why don't you invite Prime Minister Shamir to Egypt?

[Basyuni] The invitation itself, or the meeting itself, is not the target. The target is to find a solution for the Middle East conflict. If Mr Shamir has new ideas and his ideas will be acceptable to all parties concerned—I mean, an international conference and the principle of land for peace—he is most welcome. I want to assure you that we are dealing with the Israeli Government, not with persons. So, if Mr Shamir, the prime minister, has new ideas, he is most welcome.

[Margalit] Thank you very much, Mr Ambassador.

[Basyuni] Not at all.

## Plan Called 'Rotten Fish'

*TA232022 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic*
*22 Feb 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Rotten Fish"]

[Text] A meeting was reportedly held the day before yesterday between Richard Murphy's aide, Wat Cluverius, and some personalities from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Cluverius, in an attempt to pave the way for the visit to the region on Thursday by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who is bringing his new plan, said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is the only one betting on the Palestinian no to foil this plan.

This simply means that Shamir's very famous notes do not represent any obstacle on the road to peace or to a solution of the Palestinian problem. The only problem is in the Palestinian position.

The U.S. falsehood is clear for the hundredth time in this interpretation. Basically the U.S. plan does not include any of the rights of our Palestinian people. It does not at all recognize PLO participation, alongside the other parties concerned, in a solution or a settlement.

Moreover, the U.S. Administration, which has sponsored this plan or initiative, daily affirms its hostility to the Palestinian cause and the legitimate and sole representative of this cause and its people everywhere, the PLO. It does this by insisting on closing the PLO offices in New York and isolating it in international assemblies and institutions. How can this U.S. official talk about the Palestinian position at a time when his administration does not recognize any legitimate Palestinian position?

The Palestinian position is clear and explicit. It is that any plan, whether American or not, cannot succeed as long as it is not committed to the convocation of an international conference attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO, with the aim of reaching a comprehensive and just peace that ensures the national rights of our Palestinian people. We do not believe that the Arab position, whether in Egypt, Jordan, or Syria, is far from this. This is despite Wat Cluverius' allegation at the aforementioned meeting that Arab consent has been gained, so far, for Shultz's initiative or plan.

As we stated yesterday, this initiative or plan by Shultz is "a rotten fish which they are trying to fry in rancid oil." What train of settlement has taken off so that those who are late would be losers as Cluverius and others believe?

The political settlement train will definitely take off, but not by the fabrication of facts and blotting out of events. Instead, it will take off by the resolve of peace that guarantees the inalienable rights of our people and affirms the continuation of justice and stability in the region.

## AL-SHA'B on Arab 'Illusion'

*TA232003 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic*
*22 Feb 88 pp 1, 8*

[Editorial: "The Weak Logic"]

[Text] The positions and statements of a number of Arab leaders indicate something more than impotency and collusion in their treatment of the events witnessed by the occupied territories for more than 75 days.

The instability, weakness, and slackness that characterize Arab positions represent a carte blanche to both Washington and Tel Aviv to give no weight or consideration to any of the international appeals calling for an immediate halt to Israeli measures, or calling for the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East—attended by all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO and the Security Council's five permanent member states. Tel Aviv and Washington persist in rejecting this. They also persist in foiling any international effort that tries to achieve this same lofty aim.

Despite the fact that the new-old U.S. initiative that Shultz is carrying to the region reveals anew the ugly face of the United States and its spiteful hostility toward the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights while at the same time giving no consideration at all to Arab and international demands, and despite the continuing blows and insults that Washington levels at Arab and Palestinian rights, the Arabs still adhere to the illusion of U.S. solutions. They defend U.S. credibility and express their readiness to listen to George Shultz. They do this even though they know that Shultz does not bring anything new to restore the dispossessed rights to their rightful owners.

What is cause for both astonishment and pain is that every once in a while some Arab parties try to advise and pressure the PLO to recognize Resolution 242. They do this at a time when all pressures should be directed toward Washington which still insists on refusing to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Washington also refuses to recognize the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people even if the PLO were to recognize this resolution.

Recent U.S. positions against Palestinian rights, as well as the U.S. insistence on not recognizing the PLO, should suffice to abort the weak logic of Arab regimes which have for a long while sold themselves out to the U.S. Administration with "easy installments."

Hence, it is clear to us that all these Arab positions are no more than new proofs and additional evidence presented by the Arab states for Washington to escalate its hostility toward the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

### Parties Reiterate Stands

*TA241040 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Today's Inner Cabinet session was devoted to the political situation in anticipation of the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit. Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the Likud and the Alignment representatives reiterated their well-known positions. The session was calm, and a follow-up meeting will probably be held within the next few days, in the course of Mr Shultz' visit.

### Likud Insists on National Unity Basic Guidelines

*TA231924 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] At their meeting tonight, the Likud ministers adopted the prime minister's stand insisting that the National Unity government's basic guidelines be adhered to on all matters concerning the peace process. They particularly emphasized Article 9 which states that the government will take action to promote the peace process within the framework agreed upon in Camp David and to renew negotiations for the establishment of autonomy.

Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that at the meeting several ministers said that the timing of Shultz's visit is bad for Israel because of the riots in the territories, the upcoming elections, and because Minister Peres refuses to accept the authority of the government.

The prime minister briefed the ministers on Shultz's initiative as it is known to him. Tomorrow Shamir will meet with U.S. diplomat Charlie Hill who arrived in Israel to brief the Cabinet on Shultz's Moscow talks.

### Peres: Cabinet Split Creates 'Sorry Situation'

*TA241151 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] We are returning to the Inner Cabinet meeting which concluded without reaching any resolution. Our political correspondent reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said at the meeting that it is a sorry situation when the Cabinet cannot reach a decision on the peace process.

Peres said that we must exhaust the possibilities of the Shultz initiative and must take advantage of the fact that this administration is the friendliest toward Israel. As said, the Inner Cabinet meeting ended without any resolutions.

### Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Unrest, Lebanon

*TA231839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The defense minister was the guest of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He told the committee the disturbances in the territories have been on the upswing. This has resulted in a larger number of fatalities. He emphasized once again that the IDF soldiers have clear instructions regarding the use of force. In any case, the policy of beating up civilians is not practiced.

Rabin added that Israel committed a mistake in the war in Lebanon in trying to wage a war against the Palestinians. What is currently happening in the territories is the aftermath of that mistake, he said. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] Current events and the latest developments occasionally turn the tables in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Thus, representatives of the left, who heretofore never shrank from criticizing the attorney general, now lavished praise on him for sending the letter to the defense minister, urging him to issue instructions to the IDF troops on the permissible use of force.

For his part, the defense minister intimated that he is not completely satisfied with Attorney General Harish's letter. The soldiers have specific and clear instructions on when to use force even now, he said. He added that soon the chief of staff would also issue written instructions on the matter. This decision was adopted independently of the attorney general's appeal, the defense minister said. He praised the soldiers' restraint and perseverance in the face of immense provocation and humiliation.

By all psychological accounts, 90 percent of the soldiers identify with the missions which they are entrusted to carry out in the territories, Rabin maintained.

The meeting was also attended by the military judge advocate. He outlined the regulations on the use of force and added that several outstanding incidents are currently being investigated.

The ensuing debate in the committee revolved around these regulations and deviations from desirable conduct. Yosi Sarid praised the attorney general for writing his letter to the defense minister. He called on the latter to circulate instructions to the soldiers as appropriate.

The Likud members on the committee, on the other hand, were unimpressed both by the attorney general and the psychologists' report. David Magen said: One should not take things to the extreme and attach a psychologist and a legal counselor to each and every soldier.

Oddly enough, Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor refused to toe the party line by saying: The soldiers should not have to encounter situations in which they are called upon to deliberate. It would be better if everything was made clear to them in advance so as to avoid embarrassing situations and digressions.

These awkward party line divisions also included MK Ben-Eli'ezer, who said: I am shocked each time a soldier is put in jail and would prefer that certain Cabinet members serve a term instead. Dan Meridor immediately seconded him, but added: What members specifically did you have in mind?

Former Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur demanded that every possible avenue be explored, and every measure taken, to obtain a military victory. Jurist Ehud Olmert stated that firm action to quell riots is a moral and normative method. [end recording]

## Soldiers Killed, Wounded by Mine in Lebanon

*TA240511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Two Israel army soldiers were killed earlier this week and two others were lightly wounded in south Lebanon when their tank ran over a mine. The families have been notified. The Army spokesman said the incident took place on Monday evening while the soldiers were combing the area in the central sector of the security zone near the village of Bra'shit.

The Voice of Israel's military reporter says the mine consisted of 50 kg of explosives. The wounded soldiers were taken to the hospital in Zefat. Amal has claimed responsibility for the incident, which took place just a few hundred meters from a UNIFIL installation.

## 23 Feb Gaza Unrest Linked to Hayden Visit

*TA231916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Military sources said today that the visit of the Australian foreign minister stimulated disturbances in the Gaza Strip. Rioters were dispersed by tear gas and rubber bullets in the two refugee camps he toured. Tomorrow the military police will begin investigating the claims of eight inhabitants who appealed to the High Court of Justice. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] Bill Hayden toured the Gaza Strip today. During his tour of the Jabalyah refugee camp, a skirmish developed which became a riot upon his departure. Hundreds of camp inhabitants hurled stones at the security forces, who reacted by firing tear gas canisters and rubber bullets, and wielding their billy clubs. A similar, although shorter, disturbance was quelled in the Al-Shati' refugee camp. According to military sources, Hayden's visit and the fact that his party consisted of dozens of reporters and TV cameramen, sparked off the unrest.

Apart from these incidents, however, there were no outstanding events in the Gaza Strip today, although the commercial strike continued.

A solidarity rally with the border police servicemen deployed in the region ended a short while ago in the Qatif Bloc. Twelve border policemen were hurt in the course of the Gaza Strip disturbances but have subsequently returned to duty in the area. Seven outstanding servicemen were accorded citations for demonstrating courage and resourcefulness in the course of the riots.

The military police will begin investigating the complaints filed by eight inhabitants of the Gaza Strip who had appealed to the High Court of Justice tomorrow. In their complaint, the eight contended that IDF soldiers had beaten them although they had completely divorced themselves from the riots. [end recording]

Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden, during his Gaza tour, made a concerted effort to refrain from turning that visit into a media event. Nonetheless, at a news conference winding up his visit to Israel, he joined the ranks of the visitors who had severely criticized what is happening in the Gaza Strip. Gid'on Remez accompanied him.

[Begin recording] [Remez] The real disturbances broke out only after the Australian foreign minister visited the Jabalyah and Al-Shati' refugee camps, a Gaza hospital, and the former mayor. Yet what he managed to see and hear provided sufficient grounds for him to say at the end of his visit: Israel would not benefit from holding on to Gaza and would be well advised to sever its ties with that region soon.

[Hayden in English] It's no asset to Israel and the sooner Israel disengages from Gaza, the better for Israel. I think that, therefore, it exemplifies the importance of this peace negotiation going forward.

[Remez translates the above and continues] We in Australia believe in the principle of territories in exchange of peace and have always interpreted the Security Council resolutions accordingly.

While in Gaza, Hayden was introduced to people who were described as victims of IDF beatings or fire, including dumdum ammunition. Hayden said young and inexperienced soldiers should not be given live ammunition, but pointed out that measures have already been taken in the desirable direction, thanks in no small part to the free media. Australia, he emphasized, regards it as its right and obligation to criticize and advise as well, because for years it has demonstrated loyal friendship toward Israel. [end recording]

## Rabin Denies Ordering Psychological Report

*TA211842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 88*

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he has no knowledge of psychological reports which say that Israeli soldiers were using force even when not breaking up disturbances. The London SUNDAY TIMES wrote that the report had been commissioned by Rabin and that Chief of Staff Dan Shomron has expressed shock over its findings. Rabin was speaking in Tel Aviv. Sabra Chartrand reports:

[Begin recording] [Chartrand] Rabin denied knowing that either the Defense Ministry or the Army had ordered or received a report from two psychologists on soldiers' behavior in the territories as published in the London SUNDAY TIMES.

[Rabin] I didn't order any report.

[Chartrand] And have you received one?

[Rabin] I have not received any one. Whenever I'll know I'll answer you. I don't know. I read about it in the papers. I haven't seen it.

[Chartrand] Rabin told an overflowing Labor Party branch in Hatiqva [a Tel Aviv neighborhood] that the violence in the territories is not terrorism. In all the demonstrations, he said, not one bullet has been fired from the Arab side. We have two choices, the defense minister said, to run away from the situation, which will only invite further violence and endanger any chance for peace, or work to restore calm. The problem can't be solved by force alone, Rabin said, it also requires a political solution.

Responding to a question about the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, if territory is exchanged for peace, Rabin said he hoped Jews living across the Green Line after a political solution is reached will have the same rights as Palestinians with Jordanian citizenship living in Jerusalem today. [end recording]

## Amnesty International on Human Rights Violations

*TA231823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Amnesty International has called on Israel to conduct an in-depth investigation of human rights violations in the territories over the last few months. A delegation on behalf of the organization is currently in Israel. It maintains that due to the scope and severity of these violations, it would not be enough to continue the IDF's practice of haphazardly investigating individual incidents. Nonetheless, the organization pointed out that Israel has recently taken positive measures in this respect.

## IDF Circular Prescribes Behavior, Orders

*TA231818 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron's Circular to the Commander is currently being disseminated in the IDF. It is based on the existing instructions and orders, and is aimed at emphasizing them. The letter had been prepared before the state attorney relayed his message to the defense minister. Our correspondent Yasmin Qeyni reports on the letter contents.

[Begin recording] The chief of staff's letter was triggered by a number of irregular instances uncovered by army investigations. The conduct of IDF soldiers should be characterized by firmness and determination, coupled with self-control, restraint, and sensitivity, writes Gen Shomron. The use of force should be reserved for the sole purpose of accomplishing a task, such as the quelling of a violent incident.

Force can be used to disperse violent riots, to overcome resistance to lawful arrests, or during pursuit of rioters and suspects. It must be limited to the time and location of the incident. Force should never be used as a means of punishment, or after the task has been completed. Soldiers should make sure they use only reasonable force and avoid hitting people on their heads or other sensitive parts of the body. No measures which border on harassment, humiliation, abasement, or deliberate property damage should be employed against the local population.

The letter, disseminated in recent days, will reach each field commander who will instruct his soldiers accordingly. [end recording]

## Defense Intelligence Network in Territories

*TA211305 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 88 p 1*

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] The defense establishment has taken the first steps toward establishing an intelligence network that will supply information and assessments on the situation in the territories. Security sources say it is possible to understand the developments in the territories much better at present than it was 2 and 1/2 months ago, and that consequently much better assessments can be made.

The sources say, however, that this is a temporary solution, adding that it will eventually be necessary to establish a permanent and organized network having the well-defined aim of serving as an intelligence body for the territories. It has been determined that the coordinator of activities in the territories would not be able to accomplish this in the required depth and thoroughness.

## 'Syrian-Iranian' Front Seen in Territories

*TA161901 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Feb 88 p 6*

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "The Persian Gulf War: A Second Front"]

[Text] If it is true that the local leadership behind the "Unified National Command of the Uprising" is a coalition of the Al-Shabibah, the Palestinian leftist organizations, and the Islamic Jihad, then we can make conclusions which go far beyond the narrow borders of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. What developed under our very nose was, in fact, the penetration of a new front of the Iran-Iraq war into our backyard. A Syrian-Iranian coalition has been trying to assume the leadership of the uprising.

The religious element in the joint coalition must be the Islamic Jihad. This is the only organization prepared to cooperate with the radical leftist elements, and it prefers a jihad against Israel to reforming Muslim society. The Muslim Brotherhood, however, prefers to fight against Syria and the Arab left, leaving the war against Israel to another stage. The combination of the radical left and the radical right is exactly the format of the Syria-Libya-Iran coalition. A process has thus opened in which the IDF will join the Iraqi Army in its war against the common enemy.

From the PLO's point of view too, this is the beginning of a dangerous development. The Al-Shabibah organization still expresses support for 'Arafat, as distinct from PLO policy, but is about to drift into the Palestinian leftist organizations or the radical religious right. This is because these two extremes offer better solutions of the "1948 problem" to the refugees who are the true power-base of the Al-Shabibah. Yasir 'Arafat, for his part, focuses on solving the "1967 problem."

At this stage, the Al-Quds radio broadcasting from Al-Suwayda in the Druze mountain area has not yet come out against 'Arafat. On the contrary, it has interviewed personages from the territories who are pro-'Arafat. At the same time, though, it broadcast an interview with Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], the anti-'Arafat rebel. More important from the political point of view: This radio station is opposed to an international conference which forms the backbone of 'Arafat's policy. We have already observed that the Islamic Jihad is also opposed to an international conference. The conclusion called for is that these positions are a reflection of the Syrian and Iranian positions.

The demand for the resignation of the pro-Jordanian municipalities also somewhat contradicts the 'Arafat line, since the PLO leader gave Zafir al-Masri his blessing [former deputy mayor of Nabulus, assassinated in 1986]. Israel and Jordan took advantage of this blessing to appoint weak personages not representative of the population, but 'Arafat ignored them. Jordan also did not elect mayors who could threaten the 'Arafat people. We hardly heard about them after their appointment.

The element responsible for the murder of Zafir al-Masri, which was contrary to 'Arafat's policy, was the pro-Syrian Popular Front of George Habash. Its voice denouncing the municipalities is again heard through the leaflets distributed in the territories.

The Al-Quds radio did not emerge out of the blue. One of the secrets of its success is its ability to immediately broadcast on events taking place in the most God-forsaken spots in the West Bank. This radio thus gains the credibility which is so lacking in the pro-'Arafat press burdened by the military censor. It seems that the pro-Syrian station has a network of quick reporters and this leads to the conclusion that considerable preparations preceded the operation of the station.

Hence, the possibility cannot be ignored that it was not just a spontaneous eruption which led to the deterioration in the territories. It is possible that either there was some preparatory action by Syria or Iran, or that the operators of the station were lucky to launch it at the present time.

If these assumptions are correct, Israel should do some serious soul searching; not only in regard to its policy in the West Bank, but also on the subject of its general policy in the Middle East—in Lebanon and in the Persian Gulf. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is wrong in assuming that the new leadership will enter negotiations with him "in lieu of the PLO!" The direction nowadays is quite the opposite. The new coalition emerging aims to entrench Iran and Syria firmly in the territories. The purpose of this step is to foil the political process involving Jordan and Egypt which Israel has been trying to promote, and to prevent 'Arafat from joining that process at the appropriate moment.

The Islamic Jihad and the radical pro-Syrian left do not command much power in the territories. This grouping was quick to join the waves of riots and while impersonating the PLO, it actually nudged the latter to the sidelines. It is to be hoped that the PLO will recuperate fast and assume its place in the territories' leadership ranks.

To achieve this end, however, Rabin must radically change his policy in the territories, and Amman should do some serious stock-taking. The Palestinian power, capable of withstanding the Syrian-Iranian offensive, is currently under administrative detention. Rabin thought that by silencing 'Arafat's supporters, he would prepare the ground for Husayn. What actually happened was that Al-Asad and Khomeyni, not Husayn, took over.

To fortify the Palestinian power, several measures must be taken at once. These measures will remove the development of the uprising from the streets and transfer it to

the organized Palestinian power loyal to Yasir 'Arafat. We have already discussed elsewhere the need to hold municipal elections. Before that, it is essential to return credibility to the East Jerusalem press by canceling the draconian censorship. Once the Palestinians are able to to trust their newspapers again, rather than view them as a censored press, they will pay less attention to leaflets and to Al-Quds radio.

The step which Jordan must take soon is to bring Abu Jihad back to Amman and involve him in that track of the political process which was severed when the rift between Husayn and 'Arafat was created. Abu Jihad can, better than any other PLO leader, act as a bridge between Palestinian nationalism and Islamic power, and engage the two for the benefit of the political process.

Rabin must reach the conclusion that the policy of oppression has been silly as well as evil, and that it was that policy which enabled the Arab radicals to acquire a dangerous status in the territories. Jordan must realize that the removal of key figures such as Abu Jihad has aided the process through which events slipped from the hands of the PLO mainstream.

Both Israel and Jordan must realize quickly that all the philosophizing about Resolution 242 is nothing but an obstacle to peace, no less so than the settlements. The Palestinians' right to self-determination must be recognized point blank and without evasive tactics. Otherwise, it will not be long before we have to tackle Abu Musa, Abu Nidal, and the maniacs from Qom, instead of 'Arafat. This is not a theory, it is the reality taking shape before our very eyes.

## Ya'aqobi on Cost of Civil Order in Territories

*TA211055 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] Nes Ziyyona (ITIM)—Efforts to restore civil order in the administered territories have cost the state more than half a billion shekels so far, Economics Minister Gad Ya'aqobi reported on Friday.

Speaking at the opening meeting of this town's new Economic and Social Club, Ya'aqobi said there was a direct link between the security situation and the economy and that the economy could not recover without a significant cut in security costs.

If there is no political breakthrough in the wake of the latest U.S. peace initiative, early elections will have to be held, he said. Ya'aqobi said he thought that the Likud and the Alignment would be able to agree on an interim arrangement for the territories, namely, autonomy.

## IDF Cuts Power, Phone Lines During Curfews

*TA231446 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Feb 88 pp 1, 23*

[Report by Ori Nir, Eytan Rabin, and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The IDF habitually cuts off electricity and telephone lines to Arab settlements under curfew. Authoritative political sources have reported that they are aware of this practice. It is used as a punishment and deterrent measure against problem settlements. Official military sources refused to confirm the report.

A military source has reported that the IDF is seeking ways to institute tougher measures against the inhabitants residing in problem population centers. At the same time they are trying show leniency toward centers that are calm. The possibility that cutting power in settlements under curfew is a part of this policy should not be ruled out.

The Arabs in West Bank population centers under curfew have reported extended periodic electricity outages. The inhabitants of the Al-Jalazun and Al-Am'ari refugee camps, for instance, where curfews have been in effect for 2 weeks running, have reported that last week electricity was cut off every evening between 1700 and midnight.

Residents of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta, which was also under curfew for more than 2 weeks until Sunday, have reported that they experienced a similar occurrence in their settlement. Tulkarm residents also complained about power outages while the city was under curfew. Residents of Qalqilyah have reported sporadic problems with power supply and telephone lines being temporarily disconnected. [passage omitted]

## Measures Taken Against Policemen for Assault

*TA231754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The police officer who was involved in the incident in which policemen assaulted Arab tenants in Tel Aviv will be dismissed. The two policemen who were accomplices to the deed will be suspended until the investigation is concluded. The above was announced by the police affairs minister in reply to a query submitted by Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid.

The investigation conducted by an officer appointed specifically to look into the matter indicates that the policemen were not authorized to enter the apartment. They searched the apartment, attacked the tenants physically, and caused damage to property. This is an abominable act and a severe digression, the police affairs minister said. He promised that all the necessary legal measures will be taken.

Minister Bar-Lev said that the officers' superiors had not been informed of this operation and that no complaint had actually been filed on the case before the media reported it. MK Sarid claimed that policemen and border policemen are making the beatings of Arabs a habit.

## More on Continuing Disturbances in Territories

### Gaza Incidents 23 Feb

*TA231332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] IDF soldiers used rubber bullets and clubs to disperse rioters in the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza. The disturbances occurred during a visit to the camp by Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden. Our correspondents report that the youths threw stones, shattering the windshield of one of the cars escorting the Australian minister.

In Gaza, Khan Yunus, and Dayr al-Balah there is a full commercial strike today. In Rafah and the Al-Nusayrat camp there is a partial commercial strike. Some of the schools in the Gaza Strip are closed today.

### Buses Attacked in Jerusalem

*TA231751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] This afternoon there were two attempts to attack buses in Jerusalem. A metal rod was hurled at a No 38 bus near the police station inside the Old City walls near David's Citadel. Later, a Molotov cocktail was hurled at a No 1 bus near the New Gate. No one was hurt in either incident.

### 5 Golan Druze Detained

*TA240545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Five persons, including two minors, were detained last night in the Druze village of Mas'adah on the Golan Heights. They are suspected of having thrown a stone at a bus and wounding a policewoman during the riots there last week.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that 44 Druze inhabitants of the Golan Heights have been detained so far.

### Gaza, W. Bank General Strike

*TA240858 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] A general strike is under way today throughout Judaea and Samaria. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. Most workers did not leave for work in Israel, and public transportation is limited. Our correspondent notes that today's situation indicates that the residents have responded to the call issued by the PLO-backed Unified National Command of the Uprising to strike in protest against Secretary of State Shultz' visit.

Stone barriers were erected and burning tires were piled in several places. In the Tulkarm District village of Al-Dik, a bus was set on fire during the night to prevent transportation of workers to Israel.

### Roadside Mine Explodes in Gaza

*TA240941 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] The following has been just released: A roadside charge was activated yesterday in the Gaza Strip against IDF vehicles. The charge exploded and several shots were fired at the vehicles. There were no injuries.

The incident took place along the road that bypasses the city of Gaza. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi reports that the passengers in the cars fired at the place where the shots were coming from. No one was apprehended.

### Villagers on Settlers 'Rampage'

*TA240955 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Feb 88 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Baqa Al-Sharqiyah—A 14-year-old girl was killed in this West Bank village near Tulkarm on Monday night, apparently by an Israeli civilian, during what residents described as a rampage of shooting by Jewish settlers.

In a separate incident, troops shot and killed a 14-year-old boy and wounded at least two persons in a fierce clash early yesterday with hundreds of villagers at Al-Yamun, near Janin.

Police held an Israeli civilian for questioning in connection with the killing at Baqa al-Sharqiyah but he was released on bail yesterday at the Netanya Magistrates Court. A police spokesman refused to say whether the suspect was a resident of a neighbouring settlement.

After the incident, troops were moved in to Baqa al-Sharqiyah, which is adjacent to the Israeli Arab town of Baqa al-Gharbiyya.

Residents said the soldiers fired tear gas and shots in the air to disperse crowds who gathered prior to a mass funeral yesterday for the slain girl, Rawda Lutfi Najib.

Some 3,000 mourners chanted slogans and raised a Palestinian flag during the procession, according to the villagers. The soldiers later clashed with youths who hurled stones and built barricades of rocks and burning tyres. Troops blocked off the village for several hours.

The villagers said four homes had been shot at by settlers, who they said arrived in four cars, accompanied by an army vehicle. Four bullet holes could be seen in a window of the house where the girl was shot, and two holes in windows of another home. Pock marks could also be seen on external and internal walls of the houses. A window in one home was broken, and residents said it had been smashed by soldiers who entered to get youths to clear roadblocks.

'Adnan Najib Hasan, an older brother of the slain girl, gave the following account of Monday night's events:

"We were sitting at home at about 7:30 when my sister saw two cars pull up in the driveway. She went down and opened the door to greet them, thinking we had visitors. She was shot as she stood in the doorway.

"I was upstairs, and when I looked out the window, they shot five or six bullets at me. My sister shouted, 'I've been hit,' and I went down to get her. Two bullets had hit her—one in the chest, and the second in the back, as she turned away. I saw two cars, an Opel and a Peugeot, and three more on the street. The people outside said in Hebrew to the man firing, 'Don't shoot.'

"I took her to the hospital in Hadera, but she died minutes after we arrived."

'Azmi Sa'd, whose house had bullet holes in two windows and the walls of the living room, said he saw a man walking behind three cars and shooting.

Residents said there had been no incident prior to the shooting. They reported a similar shooting 10 days ago in which there were no casualties. They said settlers driving through the village harassed them regularly and had burnt an olive tree after the shooting Monday night. In previous incidents, settlers cut down trees and vandalized a car, the residents said. [passage omitted]

## High Court Instructs Rabin on Hamdan Appeal

*TA241049 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] The High Court of Justice has ruled that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will have to show cause within 15 days why the coroner's report on 'Awwad Hamdan should not be shown to his family.

A statement issued by the State Attorney's Office yesterday says there is no reason why Hamdan's relatives should not see the report or why they should have access only to the medical diagnoses. The disclosure of the coroner's report would entail revelations on the investigatory methods and legal arguments that will be used in the criminal trial that will be held behind closed doors.

Attorney Felicia Langer, representing the appellants, said that this is one of the most mysterious deaths in Israel. She demanded that the coroner's report be submitted to Hamdan's relatives. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack notes that the attorney general determined that the death was caused by negligence. He therefore decided to put a Shin Bet officer on trial.

## Settler Sentenced for 1983 Killing of Arab

*TA241144 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Nisan Ish-Yogev from the Samaria settlement of Hinnanit was sentenced to 6 months in jail today. He was found guilty of killing a 13-year-old Arab boy 5 years ago. He will serve the term by doing service work.

## President Herzog Reelected to Second Term

*TA231525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The Knesset has reelected President Hayim Herzog to a second term in office. Eighty-two Knesset members supported his reelection, 2 voted against him and 18 abstained.

### Shultz Might Shuttle Between Amman, Tel Aviv

*JN231623 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] An informed Jordanian source said that during his tour of the region, Shultz might shuttle between Tel Aviv and Amman. The source expected Shultz to visit Jordan twice.

### Shuttle Report Denied

*JN231634 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Amman—A responsible Jordanian source in the Ministry of Information has denied reports by Radio Monte Carlo and other foreign radios citing AFP in Amman, who stated that a Jordanian official told it that George Shultz will carry out shuttle visits between occupied Jerusalem and Amman to communicate the immediate reactions of both parties.

The source stressed that no Jordanian officials have made statements regarding George Shultz' program during his forthcoming visit to the region and that the Jordanian official authorities' only comment is that they welcome his visit to Jordan out of an appreciation of the importance of the U.S. role in the efforts to attain peace in the region.

The Jordanian officials will hold a dialogue and exchange viewpoints with Mr Shultz in a positive spirit, eager to render peace efforts a success and pursue them in a manner to achieve the just and comprehensive peaceful settlement to which Jordan and the Arab countries look forward.

### Saudi Arabia Pays Aid Contribution Installment

*JN231516 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Amman—Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah has stated that fraternal Saudi Arabia has transferred the first installment of its 1988 contribution to Jordan as part of the Arab aid to Jordan in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions.

The finance minister added that Jordan highly appreciates Saudi Arabia's continued concern about meeting its obligations on time, something that reflects the close relations between the two fraternal countries.

## Further on Kidnapping of Higgins, Response

### 2 Kidnappers Reportedly Caught

*NC231845 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The abduction of U.S. Colonel William Richard Higgins has entered its 2d week. The contacts, raids, and land and air search operations have yielded no positive results.

The Amal Movement tonight quoted its official in the south, Da'ud Da'ud, as saying that the Movement has detained two of Higgins' kidnappers. Da'ud said the detainees have admitted their involvement and he said they are being interrogated.

### Officials, Leaders Comment

*NC231842 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has commented on the abduction of foreign nationals in Lebanon, particularly that of U.S. officer Higgins and UNRWA officials Stening and Jorgensen. He said: Speaking on the basis of principles and not speculation, any abduction of a Lebanese or foreign national constitutes a flagrant assault on Lebanon and its security. Consequently, we oppose such actions and denounce them.

For his part, [former President] Sulayman Franjiyah said: Kidnappings do not benefit anyone except the Israelis, who use them to undermine the legitimate Arab struggle to restore usurped rights and to distort the image of Lebanon and the Arabs in the world. The abductions create enemies for this country. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, who reiterated his principled opposition to all kidnappings, said he wonders, however, why a U.S. officer of Higgins' rank would be posted in the south of Lebanon. He also expressed interest in the exact nature of his duties.

Commenting on the same issue, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that the question is one of politics and not of security. He said: We must view this issue in light of how the United States uses its presence in international organizations, and not how we should treat the international forces. We have sufficient grounds to suspect that major powers are using international organizations as a cover for their intelligence activities.

### Condemned by Shams al-Din

*NC232001 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, has condemned the abductions in Lebanon saying: We are working to secure the hostages' safety and release. The abduction issues have become very complicated because of the involvement of several security organs.

In an interview granted to AFP before he left Damascus for Beirut today, Shams al-Din inquired about U.S. officer William Higgins' position in the UNTSO.

Shaykh Shams al-Din, who arrived in Damascus from Tehran yesterday, met with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ighnatyus Hazim. They discussed ways of creating an appropriate atmosphere for solving the thorny Lebanese issues.

Before leaving Damascus, his eminence met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. They discussed the situation in the Arab region, particularly in Lebanon.

### Birri's Orders to Da'ud Noted

*NC232041 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has been quoted as telling Da'ud Da'ud, Amal official in the south, not to return to Beirut without kidnapped U.S. officer William Higgins.

Da'ud said that the Amal Movement had detained two persons involved in Higgins' kidnapping, noting they are being interrogated. Da'ud stressed that Higgins is either in the area south of Al-Litani River or in the Al-Nabatiyah area.

### 3 Arrested, Leader Still Loose

*NC232148 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] Amal official Da'ud Da'ud has said that the Amal Movement has arrested three men involved in the abduction of U.S. Colonel William Higgins. He said that the three have admitted their involvement in the operation.

In an interview with VISNEWS, Da'ud added: So far, we have not found the leader of the operation, who has all the information. He stressed that the search for the leader is continuing. Da'ud added that Amal members are searching new hideouts identified by the detainees as possible sites where Higgins may be detained. He stressed that Higgins is still in south Lebanon and the possibility of finding him is great.

Da'ud also told REUTER that Amal knows the name of the kidnappers' leader. He said that two of the detainees took part in the abduction. The third was detained while carrying a message from Beirut to the kidnappers in the south, asking them to move Higgins to the Lebanese capital.

Amal sources have reported that the kidnappers' leader has succeeded in fleeing from the south. [passage omitted]

Today Amal continued the search for Higgins. A source close to Hizballah said that 25 Amal gunmen raided the house of Shaykh 'Abbas Harb in (Al-Hallusiyah) near Tyre, in the fourth search operation against a religious scholar in one week.

### Al-Musawi Supports Demands

*NC240804 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] 'Abbas al-Musawi, a member of Hizballah's Consultative Council, has asserted Hizballah's strong support for the demands made by the kidnappers of U.S. officer William Higgins. He denied, however, that Hizballah was involved in the abudction.

Commenting on the campaigns of arrests and raids carried out by Amal against Hizballah members, Al-Musawi said: We consider this matter a summer cloud that will pass. He added that Muslim scholars have taken it upon themselves to resist the wrong practices of some irrational individuals who have no connection at all with Islam and the policy of Imam Musa al-Sadr, as he put it.

## Further on Kidnappings of 2 UNRWA Employees

### Hizballah Denies Accusation

*NC240653 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Hizballah has denied an accusation leveled by Fatah's second-in-command, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], that a group linked to Iran has kidnapped the two UNRWA employees in south Lebanon.

### Release To Occur 'Soon'

*NC240855 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0847 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has quoted informed security sources in Beirut as saying that UNRWA employees Stening and Jorgensen will be released soon. The agency added that their release is now only a matter of time, after the kidnappers decided to release them under appropriate circumstances.

The sources asserted that the two Scandinavian employees are currently detained in a place close to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, east of Sidon. The sources noted that contacts are continuing with the kidnappers to secure their release in the next few days.

### Moved by 'Diplomatic Car'

*NC240920 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Feb 88 pp 8-9*

[Text] A security report has revealed that UNRWA employees Jan Stening and William Jorgensen, who were kidnapped in the Sidon area last week by 'Arafat's Fatah men, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-'Aziz Faddah, were transported from that area by a diplomatic car belonging to an embassy operating in Beirut.

An influential figure in that area had "told some journalists" that the two employees would be released on the night of Tuesday-Wednesday (10 February) and asked them to proceed to Fatah's headquarters in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. When the journalists arrived there at 0130, Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz was taken aback. The journalists told him why they had come, and he asked them to go to the Al-Hamshari Hospital, saying he would follow them there.

Upon their arrival at the hospital, they were surprised that Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz prevented them from getting out of their car and that he denied having any detainees.

It has been learned that the two abducted Scandinavians were being held in a garden belonging to the Abu Zahr family, close to the new wholesale vegetable market, before they were transported to an unknown destination.

It is worth noting that the abductors of Stening and Jorgensen issued two statements a few days ago, accusing the two of spying for a foreign state.

### Release of FRG Men Tied to Held Lebanese

*NC240859 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Feb 88 p 8*

[Text] Informed sources have stressed that the issue of FRG hostage Ralph Schray, who was abducted in West Beirut approximately 3 weeks ago, has become linked with the issue of the other FRG hostage, Rudolf Cordes, who was kidnapped a long time ago, following the failure of attempts to separate the two issues. The abductors insisted on linking the issues and made the release of Schray and Cordes conditional on dealing with the issue of Muhammad 'Ali and 'Abbas Hamadi, the two Lebanese detained in the FRG.

### FRG Embassy to Reduce Staff in Beirut

*NC241236 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] The FRG Foreign Ministry has decided to reduce the number of employees at its embassy in Beirut as a precaution against attacks. [passage omitted]

### Security Increased for Ivorian Embassy

*NC240754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Yesterday saw the beginning of the implementation of measures adopted during Monday's diplomatic-security-judicial meeting, which was chaired by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The guards' presence at the residence of the Ivorian ambassador in Al-Rabiyah has been strengthened and the gendarmerie and the

embassies security organ have made arrangements to protect Ivorian diplomats and administrative employees. Security personnel have been detailed to escort the ambassador during his movements.

### Birri Comments on Attacks on Africans

*NC240819 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Within the framework of the discussion on conditions of the Africans in the eastern area, Minister Nabih Birri received a delegation representing the Nigerian and Sudanese communities in Lebanon.

After the meeting, Minister Birri said: Once again, we strongly denounce the attacks on the members of the African community in East Beirut, especially since last week we asked the Public Prosecution that judicial investigations into this matter be allowed to take their course. We have also called for ensuring the protection of his excellency the Ivorian ambassador. However, we were surprised by a renewed attack on the ambassador's residence.

While thanking the Ivory Coast for its decision to keep its embassy in Lebanon, we warn all against this plot, which greatly harms Lebanon and constitutes an attack on the humaneness still left in Lebanon. The authorities concerned, namely, the internal security forces and the Lebanese Army, must put a quick end to this studied terrorism against African citizens in East Beirut.

Minister Birri added: If there are objectives behind the attacks on the lives of the Africans and their property, especially following the implementation of the plan to displace the Lebanese from one area to another inside Lebanon, we wonder if another plan to displace the Lebanese outside Lebanon has been implemented. We are sure that the wisdom of the African leaders will guarantee the frustration of this plan. However, this does not absolve Lebanon of its responsibilities.

### Regime 'Covering Up' Covert Contacts

*NC231310 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The regime's interest in security matters regarding the acts of aggression against African nationals and the follow-up to the kidnapping affair in the south, as well as the increasing concern about other rumored security matters, are aimed at covering up the regime's covert contacts, especially with the Americans and Western Europe. Former Minister Elie Salim, who has been in Bonn since yesterday, is expected to meet tomorrow with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, acting in his capacity as president of the EEC.

Meanwhile, Western governmental sources have revealed that U.S. Ambassador [Kelly] had left for Washington after asking Al-Jumayyil to prepare a working paper on reforms to be delivered to Murphy. According to these sources, Al-Jummayil first refused to prepare a new paper but agreed later on Kelly's insistence.

### Al-Jumayyil Conveys Reform Plan to U.S. Envoy

*NC240733 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Informed political sources have revealed that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has prepared a new plan containing his views on political reforms, a plan which includes the abolishment of political sectarianism. The sources noted that President al-Jumayyil presented these views to U.S. Ambassador John Kelly, who left for Washington to brief the U.S. Administration on new developments in the Lebanese arena and to deliver a file containing the positions held by the president, the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and the acting prime minister on these new developments.

### Al-Husayni Holds Talks With Soviet Envoy

*NC232055 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni met at his house tonight with Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha for more than 1 hour. They discussed local and regional conditions.

After the meeting, Kolotusha said that the discussions dealt with local and regional developments, the Afghan question, and the formula submitted for solving it.

Commenting on the abduction of U.S. officer William Higgins, the Soviet ambassador said: The UN forces in south Lebanon are being subjected to attacks. The Soviet Union had previously adopted a stand criticizing these attacks.

Asked if he expects the projected Moscow summit to deal with the Lebanese issue, Kolotusha said: This depends on how the Lebanese issue will be viewed. This issue has many internal aspects; consequently, it would be difficult for it to be a subject of discussion during the anticipated U.S.-Soviet summit.

### Al-Husayni Cited on 'Dialogue' Among Parties

*NC240919 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Observers have noted statements attributed by parliamentary sources to Chamber of Deputies' Speaker al-Husayni, in which he has stated that progress has been made regarding dialogue among Lebanese parties. The sources said that Al-Husayni added that the gap is narrowing between President al-Jumayyil's ideas and those put forward by the opposition. The observers consider this a step toward a possible acceptable breakthrough during the current, calm climate.

### 2 Israelis Killed in Ambush in South 22 Feb

*NC231218 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] According to security sources, two Israeli soldiers were killed when gunmen ambushed an Israeli patrol near Bra'shit in the central sector in the south last night. The report has not been confirmed by any other source.

### 9 February Group Claims Attacks on Syrians

*NC231314 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for two rocket attacks against the Syrian occupation army in Tripoli. The first was against a Syrian position in Al-Shalfah in the Abu Samrah area at 0200 today. The attack caused several casualties among the Syrians. The second attack occurred at the Nahr Abu 'Ali Circle in Al-Tabbanah area in the city at 1800 yesterday, also causing casualties.

### National Liberal Party To Start Radio Station

*NC241025 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Feb 88 p 7*

[Text] Sources close to Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party [NLP], have stated that the Party is planning to establish its own radio station. It will be the Party's voice to express its policies and stances and will cover Sham'un's campaign for the presidential elections. This decision was triggered by the fact that radios have become the leading mass media in Lebanon.

The decision was made by the Party's Higher Council some time ago, because the mass media in the eastern areas of Beirut, which are controlled by the "Lebanese Forces" and the Phalangist Party, are covering NLP activities in a deformed and incomplete manner. These mass media deliberately ignored the NLP statement which rejected the execution of some Lebanese Forces officials in Jubayl, as well as another statement which voiced support for Walid Junblatt in connection with the issue of the Gazelle helicopter, which was moved from Adma Air Base to Al-Shuf by Officer Majid Karami.

The NLP's decision to establish a radio station comes in the wake of the AL-AHRAR newspaper's resumed publication. With the purchase of the necessary equipment, implementation of its decision has already begun.

## U.S. Lifting of Sanctions, Shultz Visit Viewed

*PM240853 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Feb 88 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Syrian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Lifting of U.S. Economic Sanctions Against Damascus Not Urgent Matter"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to responsible Syrian sources, the question of lifting the U.S. economic sanctions against Damascus is not an urgent matter because trade exchange with Washington is at its lowest level and its continuation does not mean much, particularly in view of the fact that oil prospecting in Syria by U.S. oil companies is continuing and has not stopped.

Reference was made to the issue of lifting U.S. economic sanctions against Damascus in a comment by a responsible Syrian source in speaking about Washington's initiative on lifting restrictions on the travel of Syrian nationals to the United States. In his comment, the Syrian official said: "It was the one which imposed these restrictions, and it is the one which cancels them."

Referring to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of the region which will take him to a number of capitals, although there has been no mention of Damascus, the Syrian official said: "If the U.S. secretary really wants to find a genuine and radical solution to the Middle East problem, then Damascus must be a main stop in his coming tour."

He added: "Syria still does not feel reassured about U.S. intentions, which seek to resolve the Zionist entity's crisis, created by the escalating Palestinian popular uprising, rather than seeking a peaceful and just settlement to the Palestinian question."

The Syrian official denied reports of a Syrian offer submitted to the Syrian Government [as published] by a man described as a prominent Syrian businessman, expressing his country's willingness to negotiate with Israel if the Golan is returned to Syrian control. He said: "Such talk does not deserve any comment. Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger submitted that same offer on a silver platter, but Damascus rejected it."

The Syrian source reaffirmed his country's position on the issue of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East: It insists on an international conference, supervised by the United Nations, and attended by the UN Security Council's five permanent members and the parties concerned with the problem, with the aim of achieving the desired objectives.

## Syrian Lawyers To Defend Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir

*JN231833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The Syrian Lawyers Association has decided to form a delegation of lawyers to defend patriotic struggler Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and his colleagues before the Egyptian judiciary. The association condemned, in the name of the Syrian Arab lawyers, this unjust and nonpatriotic accusation. They added that this accusation has been leveled against him as a result of the pressures of the U.S. Administration and the leaders of the Zionist entity. They said this is part of the treasonous Camp David policy intended to destroy the patriotic voice of the Egptian Arab masses.

The lawyers association also pointed out the coincidence of this accusation with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the first Arab unity in modern history and with the uprising of our people in the occupied homeland. The association said it is aimed in a humiliating manner at distracting attention from the achievements of this sweeping uprising and distorting the march of the Arab nation's struggle to achieve unity. The association also urged the brother lawyers in the Arab homeland to contribute to defending Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and his colleagues against accusations leveled against them by the Husni Mubarak regime.

In Cairo, the opposition Socialist Labor Party has decided to form a defense committee of the party's lawyers to participate in defending the heroes of Egypt's revolution against the Egyptian regime's accusations, especially those against Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir. The AL-SHA'B newspaper, mouthpiece of the party, today said that the sons of late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and a number of Egyptian lawyers, headed by Egyptian lawyers doyen Ahmad al-Khawajah, are discussing the case of struggler Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, the accusations against him, and the reactions to this issue. The newspaper said that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's brother-in-law affirmed in a telephone contact that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir will return to Cairo when the Egyptian regime begins trying the case of Egypt's revolution.

## Afghanistan

### Soviets Turning Over Posts to Government Troops

*BK231538 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 23 (AFP)—Soviet forces are reported to be already turning over some posts in Kabul Province and the responsibility for security of the Kabul-Andahar highway to Afghan Government troops, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

They said the Najibullah regime was trying to beef up its strength, reinforcing Kabul city defenses and attempting to expand its forces.

Afghan Charge d'Affaires Qudratullah Ahmadi said here Monday that Kabul's army was capable of resisting the rebels even without Soviet support.

Some wealthy families are reported to be sending their children out of Afghanistan, while East European diplomats say some senior ruling Communist Party and regime officials are leaving for socialist countries.

Diplomats say the currency market in Kabul had been "extremely volatile amid growing nervousness in the city."

The Kabul regime is also reportedly preparing for the return of former Afghan King Zahir Shah, the diplomats said. Some mujahidin factions have expressed support for the return of Zahir Shah, currently in exile in Rome.

(In Rome, press reports said the charge d'affaires at the Afghan Embassy, Muhammad Nasir Feda'i, had defected several days ago and was picked up by U.S. intelligence agents. The Afghan Embassy refused to comment.)

Diplomats also said that Soviet Ambassador Pavel Mozhayev suffered a heart attack on February 11, three days after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement of the Soviet withdrawal. He has been flown back to Moscow.

### More on Formation of Resistance Government

*BK231238 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 23 (AFP)—A seven-party Afghan resistance alliance announced the formation of an interim government Tuesday, one week before the resumption of U.N.-mediated talks in Geneva on a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

The Peshawar-based alliance also said in a communique that the transitional government would sign any peace accord reached in Geneva.

"This government will replace the government in Kabul before the signing of the Geneva accord," it said.

The Soviet Union has said it will withdraw its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan beginning May 15 if an agreement is reached at the indirect talks between Kabul and Islamabad in Geneva. The mujahidin have not taken part in the Geneva talks, which are scheduled to resume on March 2.

The resistance alliance said that the transitional government would have a 28-member cabinet made up of 14 members of the mujahidin, seven Afghan refugees and seven "Muslims presently living in Kabul."

The communique did not release the names of the members of its proposed interim government. A resistance source said earlier that the head of the alliance, Muhammad Yunis Khalis, would be chief of the transitional government.

It said the country would be renamed the "Islamic State of Afghanistan" and the Koran and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad would be "supreme."

In an apparent gesture towards Moscow, the communique said the transitional government would pursue an independent and non-aligned foreign policy and have "friendly relations will all countries particularly with its neighbours."

It added that now that Moscow has made a "commitment to withdraw" from Afghanistan, "all parties concerned will act with a full sense of their responsibilities and in accordance with...the interests of the Afghan people."

The communique said that the transitional government will be headed by a president who will also be head of government.

The interim government "will sign the Geneva accords and undertake full responsibility for the implementation, including the safe return of the Soviet forces, when the accords become acceptable to the transitional government."

The interim government will represent "all sections of the Afghan nation" and have a Grand Council formed by leaders of the alliance who will provide "joint leadership during the interim period," the communique said.

A Consultative Council will comprise 75 people, two each from the country's 28 provinces and 19 religious scholars, intellectuals and technocrats.

The Consultative Council will frame interim laws to run the country until the drafting a new constitution by an elected constituent assembly, the communique said.

The alliance also said that it had decided to set up provincial councils to administer the provinces during the interim period.

The Afghan resistance announcement came after Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani accused the Soviet Union of issuing an "ultimatum" to Islamabad on Afghanistan.

Mr. Noorani, speaking to reporters late Monday after returning from a visit to China, also criticized the Soviet offer to pull out of Afghanistan if Pakistan signs the Geneva accord by mid-March.

"This is not a sign of peaceful negotiations but an ultimatum," Mr Noorani said. "If all the nice words and fancy dressing was taken away, it did not have anything new."

### Muslim Rebel Warns Against Marxist Coalition

*LD222230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 88*

[Text] The first item in this bulletin is an interview given by a spokesman for the Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan on the occastion of 3 Hut [22 February], the anniversary of the bloody uprising of the people of Kabul.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified questioner] Mr Mohaqqeq, tomorrow is 3 Hut, corresponding to 3 Esfand [22 February], the eighth anniversary of the bloody uprising of the Kabul people. While honoring the memory of the martyrs of this day, would you, as a spokesman for the Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan, please give us your views on Afghanistan's future and the steadfastness of the Muslim people of that country?

[Mohaqqeq] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. May God bless the pure souls of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the 1 million martyrs of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, particularly the pure souls of the 3 Hut martyrs of the Kabul city uprising.

In answer to your question about Afghanistan's future and the country's steadfastness, I must say that in view of the 10-year old uprising of Afghanistan, the future of Afghanistan is bright. You are aware there is intense activity these days to solve the Afghan problem. However, the solution does not lie in the formation of a coalition government, the return of Zahir Shah, or the East-West agreements.

The problem can be solved by realizing the aspirations of the Afghan nation and its uprising, through establishing an Islamic government, under which the legitimate rights of all Muslims could be protected. If the superpowers want to solve the problem of Afghanistan, they should leave this nation alone to determine its own fate and to establish its own Islamic government. Otherwise, this revolution and this uprising, this resistance and jihad, which have continued inside Afghanistan for 10 years and which have moved victoriously to inflict a defeat on the Soviets, will continue. Nothing can stand against this uprising. The only way is through realization of the aspirations of the martyrs' blood, that is, the establishment of an Islamic government.

We hear repeatedly these days that the Soviets are declaring they are going to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan. Very well, if they are telling the truth then they should pull out their forces and leave Afghanistan to its nation to determine its own fate. However, if they intend to establish a coalition government, a Marxist government, that is, a government sharing power with those who have murdered more than 1 million people, this would be unthinkable. This is impossible. No way can this be realized and it would be impossible for such a government to survive.

The only solution, which is supported by the Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan, is to leave Afghanistan alone to allow the nation to establish an Islamic government. Otherwise this heroic nation will not lay down its arms. We continue to hope for Islam's victory all over the world and we particularly hope for a rapid victory for the combatants of Islam in the oppressed and hero-nurturing country of Afghanistan. [end recording]

### Iranians 'Impeding' Refugees From Returning

*LD230920 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Kabul, February 22, BAKHTAR—"The Iranian guards in league with the Afghan extremist armed groups, with the application of different methods, impede Afghan refugees to return home," says Azizullah—a resident of Kabul who under the policy of national reconciliation has returned home—during an interview.

For Afghans, he went on to say, no human rights is given in that country and wherever they go they are humiliated and insulted.

Under the present situation in Iran, where shortage of essential goods is badly felt and people form queues to get goods, Afghans are not allowed to stand side by side the Iranians. If any Afghan attempts to do so, he is driven away from the files. Afghans are pursuing a hard life there, he said.

With the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation the emigre Afghans in Iran are aspiring to return to their abodes.

Unfortunately, the Afghan extremists and the Iranian guards have encircled their camps and do not allow them to return home, he noted.

Also, all roads stretching from Iran to the Afghan soil are blocked and are strictly guarded by the Iranians. Some of these are even mined by the Iranians. It is worthy to say here that in late November five Afghans who attempted to escape from Iran, on their way back home were killed by these mines. An Afghan couple while entering Afghan territory were shot to death by the Iranian guards, he stressed.

But, despite all these obstacles dozens of Afghans leave Iran for home every day. The emigre bribe Iranian guards to go back home, he further added.

### Central Bank To Exchange Returnees' Currency

*LD240934 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Kabul, February 23, BAKHTAR—Banks of the Republic of Afghanistan are prepared to exchange at free market price the foreign currencies of the Afghan returnees who are coming back to their homeland in pursuance of the policy of national reconciliation, says an announcement of [word indistinct] Afghanistan Bank, the central bank of the country.

According to available reports, the rushing of a great number of Afghans residing abroad to exchange their foreign currencies to afghanis has made the grounds favourable for misuse.

In order to prevent the financial losses to be incurred to the returnees from this respect, the Afghan returnees can either bring their foreign currencies with themselves or can transfer them by a branch of Afghanistan Bank in abroad and thus to receive its price in afghanis at free market price.

### BAKHTAR Comments on Soviet Army Anniversary

*LD230933 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Kabul, February 22, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BAKHTAR in connection with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the army and naval forces of the Soviet Union writes:

It is the people's powers that "friendship is tested by time and iron by fire". The people of Afghanistan have fully identified their friends and enemies. The Afghan-Soviet friendship is of great historical significance in that its foundation was laid by V.I. Lenin, the leader of the world proletariat, our freedom-loving ancestors and King Amanullah.

The Soviet military men who are performing their internationalist duty in our country in conformity with the accords reached between the governments of the two countries are the heralders of peace and are comrade-in-arms. They have been helping us in rebuffing aggression from abroad, organised by imperialism and reaction headed by the U.S. imperialism.

Our people will never forget the memory of those Soviet sons who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom, independence and national dignity of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Soviet brothers rushed to help their Afghan brothers in the most sensitive and hard moments of history. They divided their food and salt with the Afghans and did not withold any cooperation.

The Soviet people sent their sons in defending the independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. They came here as soldiers of peace and freedom. They left out [as received] the example of real internationalism and revolutionary militant patriotism.

The Soviet limited military contingents helped us in the creation of armed forces and imparted to us their military, political and tactical experiences. We not only learnt from the internationalist soldiers the militant skills and experience but they served as examples of genuine revolutionist, bravery and devotion.

The people of Afghanistan are marking the foundation of the Army and naval forces of the Soviet Union at a time when the policy of national reconciliation opens its path ever wider day by day through the hearts of the masses and the people of the world.

The announcements of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC, have been warmly received by the people of the world.

The people, state and the Armed Forces of Afghanistan are crossing from a sensitive stage. All of our genuine patriots are now transformed into a single rank of militants in an aim to ending war and fratricide in the country.

The feature of internationalist soldier changed into such an example that the soldiers of Afghanistan are to follow it. The Afghan youths are voluntarily joining the Armed Forces and the combat capability of our Armed Forces have strengthened.

## Reports on Georgian SSR Delegation's Visit

### Najibullah Meets Delegation

*LD201750 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 20 Feb 88*

[Text] In his office this afternoon Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received Otar Melkadze, deputy chairman of the Georgian Council of Ministers, and his delegation, and held friendly talks with them.

During the meeting they exchanged views on the direct cooperation betweeen Kapisa Province and the Georgian SSR and its further expansion. Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hakim; Sayyed Ekram Paygir, state

minister for direct cooperation affairs; the governor of Kapisa; and (Paydosov), counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, were present during the meeting.

### Cooperation Protocol Signed

*LD212154 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Feb 88*

[Text] A protocol on direct cooperation between the Georgian SSR and Kapisa Province was signed this afternoon at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan. The protocol was signed for the Georgian Republic by Otar Melkadze, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of that Republic, and for the Afghan side by the governor of Kapisa. Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister; Sayyed Ekram Paygir, minister of state for direct cooperation affairs; and the economic counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul were also present on the occasion.

Under the protocol, the Georgian SSR will help Kapisa Province in training cadres in the spheres of agriculture, public health, communications, light industry, and education and training.

### Wakil Meets Delegation Head

*LD230739 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Kabul, February 22, BAKHTAR—'Adbul Wakil, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan—PDPA CC—and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, received Otar Melkadze, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Georgian SSR in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. Views were exchanged on matters of mutual interest between them.

### Uzbek SSR, Samangan Province Expand Ties

*LD210641 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 21 Feb 88*

[Text] Kabul, February 20, BAKHTAR—On the basis of direct links of cooperation between Tashkent, centre of Uzbek SSR and Samangan Province of the Republic of Afghanistan, a number of economic projects will be constructed and equipment needed for irrigation, health and veterinary as well as for nurseries, schools and kindergartens in the Samangan Province, will be provided by the Uzbek SSR in 1988, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Aibak, centre of Samangan Province.

Seven groups composed of workers and clerical staffs of the said province will go under training programmes in Tashkent and seven groups of Soviet instructors will arrive in Samangan.

During the visit of the party and state delegation of the Samangan Province to Tashkent recently, the Samangan-Tashkent peace store was opened in Tashkent. The Tashkent-Samangan peace store will be opened in Samangan in the very near future.

Based on the economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the Samangan Province and the Tashkent City, three convoys of aid goods have reached to that province.

The second convoy of these aids consisted of consumer goods, home equipments, drugs and medical accessories valued over 1,015,000 rpt 1,015,000 roubles. The goods were distributed to the families of the martyrs of the revolution, cripples and other deserved people.

In the third convoy of these aids 150 items of merchandise have so far reached Samangan.

Likewise, on the basis of direct cooperation between Kapisa Province and the Georgian SSR 14 items of consumer goods of gratis aids of that republic arrived in Mahmud-e Raqi, centre of Kapisa Province today.

The goods were distributed to the deserved families of that province.

### Najibullah Meets With Qandahar Tribal Chiefs

*LD232033 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] This morning Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with the elders, chiefs, and representatives of various tribes of Qandahar Province. He discussed with them the realization of the policy of national reconciliation.

BIA reported that during this meeting, which was held at PDPA headquarters, a few verses from the holy Koran were read and then Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the need to restore peace in the country and solve the situation around Afghanistan. He said:

In the past 8 years our people have shed tears and blood, and families have mourned the loss of their loved ones. The PDPA and the government of the Republic of Afghanistan resolutely decided that this war and fratricide in our country must be stopped and tears no longer shed. With much flexibility the government announced the policy of national reconciliation and took brave steps on this humane and noble path. The realization of this humane policy, however, is not possible for the government alone. All of the country must take part for the restoration of peace.

Esteemed Najibullah added: The presidential statement about the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan has been published. In it, all aspects of the peaceful solution of the issue around Afghanistan have been clarified and now it is the duty of each peace-loving

person and the peace-loving countries of the world to participate in this sacred path of peace with a sound perception of the stand of the Republic of Afghanistan.

In connection with the selfless cooperation of the friendly USSR, Esteemed Najibullah said:

The limited contingents of the Soviet Union came to our country in accordance with the demand of the lawful government of the Republic of Afghanistan in order to safeguard our national independence, territorial integrity, and national honor. And now the conditions are favorable for the limited contingents of the Soviet Union to return to their peace-loving country. However, the enemies of the people of Afghanistan want to throw stones at the policy of national reconciliation and prevent the return of the Soviet Union's limited units to their country.

Esteemed Najibullah also spoke about the need to create a coalition government in the country, and said:

This task must be realized by the people of Afghanistan only and no foreign country has the right to express an opinion in this respect.

The BIA correspondent adds that also present at this meeting were 'Abdulrashid Waziri, in charge of the nationality, tribes, and borders department of the Central Committee; Haji Habibullah, Haji 'Abdul Samad, Haji Ali Yawar, Abdullah, and 'Abdul Salam, and the chiefs and representatives of various tribes of Qandahar Province. They expressed full support for the policy of national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan, and for the statement made by the Afghan president on the political solution to Afghanistan, and expressed their unreserved readiness to implement the policy of national reconciliation.

### Armed Groups Join National Reconciliation

#### 400 Surrender in Faryab

*LD220905 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 22 Feb 88*

[Text] Kabul, February 21, BAKHTAR—An armed group numbering four hundred persons joined the process of national reconciliation in Qeysar District of Faryab Province on Saturday, reports a BAKHTAR correspondent from Faryab Province.

In a meeting organised on the occasion Habibullah Beg, the head of the group on behalf of his men expressed full support for implementation of national accord and promised to do his best for ensuring peace in their areas.

Along with the group thirteen villages came peacefully under the popular sovereignty and 1,600 unarmed men who had fled to mountains resumed their peaceful life. They were organised in the tribal detachment of Qeysar District. [passage indistinct]

#### 62 Surrender in Konduz

*LD222159 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Feb 88*

[Text] An armed group consisting of 62 people in Hazrat-e Emam district, Konduz Province, put into practice their decision to end armed operations and henceforth to take part in maintaining security and peaceful work in the district. According to a report from a BIA military correspondent, the members of the Commission for National Reconciliation and a number of officials of Hazra-e Emam district welcomed this decision.

The individuals who joined the national reconciliation handed over 3 rocket launchers and a large number of assorted weapons and ammunition to the security forces of the district.

## Bangladesh

### Ershad: 'No Political Uncertainty' in Country

*BK231614 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] President Ershad has asked the deputy commissioners [DC's] and superintendents of police [SP's] to ensure free and fair elections on the 3d of next month. The president was addressing DC's and SP's at a meeting at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka today. The deputy prime minister in charge of home affairs, Professor M.A. Matin, the Cabinet and home secretaries also spoke at the meeting. The director general of BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] and ansars [auxiliary policemen] and VDP [Village Defense Party] and the inspector general of police were also present.

The president said it is the right of the people to choose any candidate, and on the other hand, the responsibility of the administration is to ensure free and fair polls. He described the coming parliamentary polls as very important to continue the constitutional process. Democracy, constitutional process, and elections cannot wait for anybody's decision. Election is a continuous process and it takes place as per the provisions laid down in the Constitution. President Ershad said it is very easy to be destructive, but it takes time, resources, and hard work to build anything. The people must build up resistance against the politics of bomb throwing, terrorism, and burning of national property.

The president said, in the face of opposition allegations of rigging in the last election, Parliament was dissolved to pave the way for fresh election, but he regretted that despite this some opposition parties and alliances are not coming forward to participate in the polls. In order to ensure free and fair polls, it was proposed to bring in election observers [of political parties] and expand the Election Commission with their representatives to oversee impartial holding of polls to their satisfaction. Yet these political parties are sticking to anticonstitutional

and antidemocratic path. In this context, the president spoke of repeated calls for national consensus on some basic national issues, including economy and form of government.

He again appealed to all to sit and decide on basic national questions, instead of confronting each other. He hoped the members of Parliament will give thoughts on the matter and decide the future course of action. He said any attempt to bypass Parliament will not be good for the nation.

The president also addressed a mammoth rally of workers, peasants, and students, and freedom fighters in Narayanganj today. He told them categorically that there is no political uncertainty or unrest in the country. The president, however, said some political leaders have been trying to create indiscipline in society by indulging in the politics of terrorism, destruction, and anarchy to go to power. President Ershad said the people had already realized evil designs of these handful of political elements and stayed away from such politics, which only bring them miseries and distress.

### Election Candidate Shot, Killed in Jessore

*BK240810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Feb 24 (AFP)—A candidate for Parliament was shot dead and one of his supporters critically wounded when gunmen stormed into an election meeting in southwestern Bangladesh and opened fire, officials said Wednesday.

Mushtaq Hasan, an independent candidate in Jessore District for the March 3 parliamentary election, was gunned down Tuesday, local officials said.

He was the first candidate to be killed ahead of the controversial March 3 election, which the opposition has decided to boycott.

The unidentified gunmen burst into the election meeting and exploded crude bombs before shooting Mr Hasan, the officials said by telephone.

A supporter of Mr Hasan was in critical condition with a bullet wound at a hospital in Jessore, 135 kilometers from here, they added.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad meanwhile urged local officials to help ensure a peaceful, fair and safe election.

Mr Ershad, at a meeting here Tuesday of police and civilian heads of the country's 64 districts, called on local officials to help ensure the safety of candidates and poll officials as well as Bangladesh's 40 million voters.

The opposition, including Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, have been waging a campaign for nearly the past four months to force Mr Ershad to resign. [passage omitted]

## India

### Security Tightened Around Golden Temple

*BK231722 Hong Kong AFP in English 1658 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 23 (AFP)—A paramilitary policeman and two other people have been killed in Punjab and the authorities Tuesday deployed additional forces to tighten security around the Golden Temple and curb free accessibility by Sikh militants to the holiest of their shrines.

Amritsar District Police Chief Izhar Alam was quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) as saying that an unspecified number of additional security forces had been deployed around the temple complex Tuesday.

Mr. Alam said the step was to "check the inflow and outflow of the firearms from the temple and also to put some kind of check on the movement of the extremists (Sikh militants) to and from the temple". He was also quoted as saying the number of security pickets around the shrine located in this holy city in Punjab had also been increased to 18 from the present 11.

PTI said the decisions were taken after senior security officials, led by the state's Additional Director General of Police K.P.S. Gill, made an on-the-spot assessment of requirements around the complex where, according to earlier media reports, a number of Sikh militants had taken shelter.

Sikh militants battling for a homeland called Khalistan in the northern state shot dead a paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man, Bane Singh, outside Bodewal village late Monday, PTI said. The attackers fled.

In two other incidents in the same district overnight, Sikh militants gunned down Muktiar Singh, a village chieftain, while an unidentified separatist Sikh was killed in a gun battle with security forces. A pistol was found at the site after the encounter, the news agency quoted police as saying.

Elsewhere in Punjab, Sikh militants shot and seriously wounded Kashmir Singh, a retired deputy superintendent of police, and an attendant at his home in Batala District. Both were hospitalised, PTI said.

About 324 people have died in separatist-linked violence in Punjab since January—the bloodiest start to a year since the Sikh separatist campaign flared in 1983.

### Gandhi Emissary Carries Message to Kabul

*BK240922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] The prime minister's special envoy. Mr Gopi Arora, has reached Kabul with a message tc the Afghan leaders on the Indian assessment of the latest moves to settle the Afghan issue and pave the way for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country.

Mr Arora, secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has gone to the Afghan capital with the prime minister's message in the light of the talks the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, had with the deposed Afghan king, Zahir Shah, in Rome early this month, and the visit of the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, to New Delhi in the 2d week. [as heard]

### Opposition Demands Resignation of Government

*BK231249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Some opposition parties held a rally in New Delhi in support of their demand for the resignation of the government and a midterm poll. Addressing the meeting, opposition leaders alleged that the government has failed to maintain law and order and control price rise, unemployment, and corruption. They also criticized the deployment of the Army on the eve of the election in Tripura.

Among those who spoke were Mr Madhu Dandavate, Mr Indrajit Gupta, Mr B.D. Ranadeva, and Mr Satya Prakash Malaviya.

## Iran

### Seminarians Issue Statement on Higgins Abduction

#### Arrests Condemned

*LD241100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persicn 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Lebanese religious students and ulema living at the Qom seminary have issued a statement following the abduction of U.S. Colonel William Higgins in southern Lebanon and the attempts by certain Lebanese groups to find him.

The declaration condemns the deeds by servants of global arrogance that seek to undermine the lofty aspirations of Lebanon's Islamic revolution. The statement also denounces the harassment and arrest of Muslim fighters in southern Lebanon. They said that neither the actions of agents nor the sophisticated weapons of global arrogance will weaken the decision of Muslim fighters and their resolve and determination to combat conspiracies hatched by the combined enemies of Lebanon's Islamic revolution. In addition, they noted that no power will be capable of withstanding the divine force that inspires our fighters.

#### Continued 'Resistance' Urged

*LD241145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Lebanese religious students and ulema residing at the Qom seminary have issued a statement following the abduction of U.S. Colonel William Higgins in southern Lebanon and the attempts by certain Lebanese groups to find him. The declaration condemns the deeds of elements affiliated to global arrogance that seek to undermine the lofty aspirations of Lebanon's Islamic revolution. The statement also denounces the harassment and arrest of Muslim fighters in southern Lebanon.

The statement says in part: Today, for the sake of an American spy, a mercenary of global arrogance and Zionism, the hands of the fighters who have paved the way for the liberation of Lebanon's oppressed people are tied behind their backs. The sanctity of the homes of struggling ulema, who have offered to sacrifice their lives for the glory of God and the strengthening of Islam's pure principles, are violated, and those who have broken the chains of captivity and ejected the Zionist enemy from the Islamic land of Lebanon are being treated so abominably.

The statement, addressed to the Muslim Lebanese revolutionaries, says: Recognize your responsibility under these sensitive circumstances. By maintaining your resistance in Jibshit, Dayr Qanun, Mashgharah, and other villages in southern Lebanon, stand against the sinister plots, which have the sole objective of extinguishing the bright flames of Islamic resistance.

In the concluding part of their declaration, the Lebanese ulema and religious students of Qom seminary stress: Lebanon's Muslim revolutionaries may have remained patient at times to safeguard Muslim unity and prevent the unnecessary loss of Muslim blood and wasted efforts. However, they will never remain patient in the face of attempts by the hirelings of global arrogance, who are trying to halt the advance of the Islamic revolution and the fulfillment of its holy aspirations.

### Montazeri Notes Need for Muslim Rule in Lebanon

*LD241226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] A number of ulema and militant personalities from Lebanon, together with the ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Lebanon and Syria, met yesterday with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. They gave the deputy leader a report on the struggles of the Muslim Lebanese nation and its existing difficulties.

During the meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri made a speech in which he thanked them and and stressed the need to continue the Islamic struggle in Lebanon and Palestine until victory. He said: Given the fact that the majority of people in Lebanon are Muslim, the government, as well as political and economic power, should be in the hands of that country's Muslim majority in the future. It makes no sense for a minority to rule over the destiny of a decisive majority of Sunnis and Shi'ites.

The deputy leader remarked: The notion that governments should be formed on the basis of a national majority has gained universal acceptance. The current pattern and practice in Lebanon are legacies of French colonialist thinking, and should be changed at the hands of the Muslims.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: Of course, the rights of the Christian and Jewish minorities should be safeguarded, as Islam has emphatically stressed. Clearly, their rights will be taken into account in Lebanon's future Islamic government.

### Besharati, Pakistani Official on Afghan 'Crisis'

*LD231903 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar left here today at the end of his 4-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Before departure, Abdus Sattar said that during his stay here he informed Iranian officials of the viewpoints of his government regarding the Afghan issue.

He stressed that exchange of views between Iran-Pakistan officials will surely render great help in solving the Afghanistan problem.

On the formation of an interim government in Kabul, after the Soviet troops pull out, he said that under present conditions any plan unable to guarantee freedom and independence of Afghan people is doomed. He reiterated that the Afghan crisis will be resolved only through participation of all concerned parties especially the Afghan Muslims and mujahidin.

Abdus Sattar said Pakistan fully agrees with Islamic Iran that Afghanistan's destiny should be determined by its own people and believed that only a government chosen by its people can guarantee the rights of the Afghan nation and its unity.

In response, Besharati said that Iran did not approve or participate in the Geneva talks because the talks ignored the Afghan mujahidin, the main party in the conflict.

After eight years of Soviet occupation, he said, it has become clear to the Pakistani brethren that Americans like the Soviets view the Afghan problem in the framework of their own interests.

He added that Iran has reiterated the Afghan problem can be solved only through the pull out of Soviet forces and accepting the just demands of the Afghan Muslims.

It has been Iran's principal stand that Afghanistan should be administered by the mujahidin and its Muslim people as an independent, free and non-aligned country having friendly relations with all its neighbours, said Besharati.

Iran which shares 760 kms of its eastern borders with Afghanistan, is not certainly nonchalant towards developments in that country but having a long common border with the Soviet Union, Iran believes Soviet thoughts towards Afghanistan would be very important, said Besharati.

Besharati referring to Iran's proposal on the holding of multilateral talks to be attended by the Soviets, Iran, Pakistan and Afghan mujahidin, said that the Soviets have practically shown interest towards Iran's plan.

He made it clear that the main hurdle to the Afghan issue is the Soviet-installed Kabul regime, and questioned, how can one negotiate with a regime that has caused the death of more than a million Muslims and has wounded and crippled a far greater number and has made homeless about five million people.

"We once again reiterate that a regime which has inflicted such alarming casualties on Afghan Muslims, cannot and should not have any role in solving the crisis," said Besharati.

Afghan mujahidin, Pakistan and the Soviet Union have all shown interest toward Iran's plan that could certainly be put to practice, he added.

He said that Iran believes withdrawal of Soviet forces by itself cannot solve the crisis and said attention of Afghan mujahidin and the neighbouring countries are necessary under the present critical conditions.

### 'Just Demands' of Afghan Muslims Reviewed

*LD231216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] As we reported in the news, the Afghan Muslim mujahidin have made a statement on the anniversary of the bloody and widespread uprising of Kabul's Muslim people 8 years ago. A large number of Afghanistan's Muslim people were martyred at the hands of the Soviet forces and the forces of the Kabul regime. In their declaration, they announced their just demands for a

solution to the Afghan problem. The statement stresses the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces, and notes that if justice is to be done to the blood of the martyrs and the will of the mujahidin and the Muslim Afghan people, an Islamic government must be established. It also highlights the fact that there will be no end to the armed jihad until such a government is attained.

At a time when both East and West are engaged in extensive efforts to reach a compromise on Afghanistan, the position of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin has again demonstrated the firm resolve of Afghanistan's risen Muslims to decide their country's fate. The presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan is the most important obstacle to the Muslim Afghan nation's achievement of sovereignty over its own destiny. That is a very basic point. As such, the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is the first step toward a solution of the Afghan issue.

Despite the USSR's insistence about its pullout from Afghanistan, such remarks apparently go no further than words and propaganda, and there are no tangible signs of a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. According to political observers, the fact that Moscow has yet to actually withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, despite its official announcement nearly 2 years ago that it was ready to do so, is proof that the Soviets are stalling. In view of reports that Soviet forces are in control of strategic areas of Afghanistan, the supposition that the Soviets are considering a limited pullout, mainly for propaganda purposes, has grown stronger.

The next point is the question of Afghanistan's future. At the moment, East and West are trying to reach an agreement on this with each other, behind the backs of the Afghan people. Clearly, no one but the Muslim Afghan nation itself is qualified to decide the country's destiny. The Muslim Afghan mujahidin stressed this fact in their statement. As they said, the world should know that the more than 20 million Afghan Muslims are the only ones with the right to decide their destiny, that they have a full sense of Islamic, political, and revolutionary maturity, and that they have no need for guardians and will not submit to the tutelage of any person or country.

In any case, the heroic struggles of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have made it clear in the past few years that the Muslim Afghan people want a government that is affiliated neither to the East nor the West. Most certainly, the only government acceptable to the Afghan nation is one that can make its Islamic aspirations a reality.

### Turkish State Minister Arrives in Tehran

*NC240704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*0330 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Yusuf Ozal, Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, arrived in Tehran this morning. Ozal is leading a delegation composed of deputy ministers of commerce and industry and industrial and technical officials. He was welcomed by Mr Nabavi, minister of heavy industries, and by deputy ministers and officials from the Ministries of Heavy Industries, Petroleum, and Commerce. The Turkish deputy minister of commerce, who is currently in Tehran, was also on hand to greet him.

Ozal, who is in Tehran for the sixth session of the Turkish-Iranian joint economic committee, spoke to our correspondent on the trend and manner of broadening our relations and on the conditions of bilateral trade in past years. He said: During this visit, we will discuss the oil pipeline project to be constructed between Ahvaz and the port of Iskenderun. When completed, it will enable Iran to export a third of its oil.

The Turkish delegation will meet with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in the next few days for talks on technical and industrial issues. Its members will also confer with the ministers of petroleum, commerce, and foreign affairs. As the last few sessions of the committee are held, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal will be in Iran at the invitation of Prime Minister Musavi. A memorandum of understanding covering economic, technical, and commercial cooperation will be signed by the respective ministers in the presence of the two prime ministers.

### Radio Comments on Velayati Visit to Indonesia

*LD231733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1105 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Station commentary: "Dr Velayati's Visit to Indonesia"]

[Text] Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, left for an official visit to Jakarta yesterday at the head of a political and economic delegation. His trip is taking place at the invitation of Mr Mokhtar, the Indonesian foreign minister, and is in return for one he paid to Tehran last year. During his 3-day stay, Mr Velayati will discuss both bilateral and important regional and international issues with Indonesian officials. The trip is especially significant, as the Islamic Republic of Iran gives priority to relations with Muslim nations and states. This fact, as well as the similarity between the cultures and customs of Iran and Indonesia, one of the largest Islamic states in terms of population, are the main impetus behind the expansion of bilateral ties.

According to a statement by the Indonesian foreign minister, since both the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia are members of the ICO, the Nonaligned Movement, and OPEC, there are even more reasons for the two countries to expand relations. As for foreign trade, following a short-lived highpoint immediately after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, commercial

transactions between the two countries began a downward trend, which continued until 1985. On the basis of official statistics for that year, Indonesia exported $2.92 billion worth of goods to Iran and received $618,000 worth of imports in return.

There was a change in the growth of our bilateral ties in various fields following the visit of Indonesia's trade minister to Iran in 1985 and his talks with several of our officials. The Indonesian vice president, Umar Wirahadikusumah, also met with President Khamene'i at the nonaligned conference in Harare. During their meeting, he asked for an expansion of bilateral relations and greater cooperation at the international level. Last year, our country's commerce minister paid a return visit to Indonesia and in the course of talks between the Iranian delegation and Indonesian officials, a memorandum of understanding, a trade protocol, and four commercial agreements were signed. According to these agreements, Indonesia will buy high-grade oil from Iran, and in return, will export such commodities as sugar, natural rubber, car tires, and other goods to Iran.

### Tehran Hails Capture of Iraqi 'Mercenaries'

*LD231440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1102 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Station commentary: "The Arrest of the Iraqi Regime's Mercenaries"]

[Text] Within 48 hours of the bomb-planting episode and in a careful intelligence operation, the Guards of the Revolution Committees have succeeded in arresting the culprits responsible for the latest explosions on Martyr Bahonar and Mohammad 'Ali Jenah Avenues in Tehran. They are Iraqi mercenaries.

According to a Central News Unit report, the vigilant Guards of the Revolution Committees followed a structured and speedy plan. Not only did they identify and arrest the major culprits involved in these blasts, but they also uncovered and confiscated another 39 kg of explosives, which these criminals intended to use for other bombings in Tehran. These latest acts by the self-sacrificing guards against the agents of arrogance and the mercenaries of the Zionist Iraqi regime must be considered among the most outstanding intelligence operations launched by this institution, which arose from the people. These measures demonstrate the vigilance, care, and sensitivity of the guards toward the preservation of public order and the maintenance of the security of our self-sacrificing people.

These operations by the Guards of the Committees are unique, and prevented criminal actions like those we have seen before, including the incidents at the railroad station and the Friday prayers ceremony. They have neutralized the plots of the regime ruling over Baghdad, which, by making civilians in cities the targets of terrorist operations, is trying to minimize the successive defeats of its armed forces by the powerful warriors of Islam. As such, the vigilant steps taken by the Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees, who have always defended the accomplishments of the revolution and continue to do so in different theaters of our Islamic country, deserve our praise and appreciation.

At the same time, we must emphasize that the Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees, institutions that wage a constant struggle to defend the prestige of Islam, the Islamic Republic, and its just achievements, must remain alert and decisive to foil the plans and plots of the agents of arrogance.

### Navy Commander Outlines Military Achievements

*LD232102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1630 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the naval force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, presented a report this morning to the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council on the Navy's achievements. The report included the highest recorded figures for distances traveled by air and surface units since the force was established. During the meeting, the commander of the naval force declared that the units of the force are fully prepared, and announced that their combat capabilities are at their highest point. He also presented a report on successful escort missions for merchant vessels, the provision of security for the country's imports and exports, and the most efficient use of sea-lanes.

Commodore Malekzadegan referred to the efforts of the force concerning moves toward self-sufficiency in training. In addition, he reviewed some useful changes in the educational (?methods) of naval centers and specialist colleges, with emphasis on the training of naval cadres in sea journeys exceeding 8,000 miles. He explained that surface and air units had been sent to the Indian Ocean for this very purpose, adding: These operations confirm that the naval force of the Islamic Republic of Iran can operate at great distances and in oceans.

He delivered a report on the aims of a meeting of naval commanders, which dealt with combat operations, essential repairs to vessels and the Navy's heavy units, the implementation of certain changes to ship radar systems, which will increase their operational capacity, the construction of a tugboat, which will be launched by the end of this year [20 March], and the reinforcement of the vessel's rocket system.

Mr. Khamene'i expressed his satisfaction and praised the activities and accomplishments of the Navy. These achievements came despite the sensitive situation and the threats by foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region. He stressed the importance of the Navy's efforts to attin self-sufficiency and its ever-increasing investment for this purpose.

## Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

### Assembly Points Bombed

*LD241022 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA—Iraqi troop concentration sites and fortifications were bombed by Iranian jet fighters in the operational region opposite Faqeh, southwest of Dezful in southern Iran at 10:50 hours local time (07:20 hours GMT) today.

The Joint Staff Command of the armed forces further reported that the jet fighters returned to bases safely after setting ablaze Iraqi positions, infantry and armoured equipment, logistic vehicles and battery units.

### Kurdish Attacks Noted

*LD221137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 88*

[Text] The headquarters of the three branches of the IRGC has released the following statement:

To show the vulnerability of Iraq's Zionist regime in its efforts to keep the northern parts of the country under control, the fighters of the Special Shohada [Martyrs] Battalion of Ramadan Headquarters, with the cooperation of peshmergas from the Iraqi KDP, destroyed 12 pylons on the Dahuk-(Zaviteh) road in Dahuk Province, plunging the two towns into total darkness.

In another operation, units from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan killed Colonel 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad Ibrahim, artillery commander of the Iraqi I Corps from Samarra. In addition, some 45 mercenaries of the Iraqi Zionist regime surrendered with their weapons to the fighting Iraqi Kurdish forces.

## Nepal

### Outlawed Nepali Congress Calls General Strike

*BK231451 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 23 (AFP)—The outlawed Nepali Congress has called for a general strike in Kathmandu Monday to protest the suspension of the city's mayor and his deputy, party sources said Tuesday.

The Kathmandu officials and several elected local officials elsewhere in the country known as pro-democratic activists were suspended after boycotting celebrations December 16, the 27th anniversary of the founding of the partyless Panchayat system, under which all political parties are banned.

National Panchayat Chairman Nawaraj Subedi meanwhile warned during a Panchayat meeting in western Nepal that stringent action would be taken against those who violated the Panchayat Constitution.

## Pakistan

### 'Identity of Views' With Iran on Afghan Solution

*BK241125 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] There is complete identity of views between Pakistan and Iran on the way to bring about a comprehensive solution of the Afghanistan problem. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today, while commenting on the visit of the foreign secretary to Iran for consultations with Iranian leaders on the latest developments as regards the Afghanistan problem. He said Iran fully supports Pakistan's position on the Afghan problem, which cannot be resolved until the real representatives of the Afghan people form their own government. It is necessary to make progress simultaneously on both the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and establishment of a broad-based interim government in that country.

Replying to a question, the spokesman described the announcement of the proposed interim government by the Afghan alliance as a positive step.

### Armacost Arrives To Discuss Afghan Situation

*BK240918 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 24 (AFP)—U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost arrived here Wednesday to discuss the Afghan issue with President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, diplomatic sources here said.

Mr. Armacost's 24-hour visit comes a week before the resumption of talks in Geneva between Pakistan and Afghanistan on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the forming of an interim government in Kabul.

Mr. Armacost, who arrived here from the Soviet Union, is to brief Pakistani leaders on talks held Monday in Moscow between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the sources said.

The Afghan mujahidin alliance announced Tuesday the formation of an interim government composed entirely of members linked to resistance groups and which would be empowered to sign an eventual accord in Geneva.

Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad, Quadratullah Ahmedzi, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Wednesday that he could not comment on the annoucement. Kabul has previously offered to form a coalition government with the mujahidin.

"It's a positive step which should be followed by more negotiations," a Western diplomat said. But he noted the resistance had adopted a "hard line" and that the Moslem orientation of the interim government was "very clear."

"The reference to an Islamic state based on the Koran is inspired by Iran and Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia," he added.

Tehran and Riyadh are very influential among the Afghan Moslem guerrilla groups, especially with the pro-Iranian radical Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and the pro-Saudi fundamentalist Etehad-e Eslami of 'Abdul Rab Sayaf.

Sayyed Pir Gaylani, leader of the moderate Islamic National Front that preaches Western-style democracy, continues meanwhile to call for the return of former Afghan King Zahir Shah as "the only neutral and competent person to restore peace in Afghanistan."

Mr. Gaylani says the king could be elected by an assembly (jirghah) and become the head of a coalition government to succeed the interim government.

Mr. Armacost leaves Thursday for New Delhi, which has been attempting to play an active role in settling the Afghan conflict since Moscow announced plans to withdraw its troops from the country.

But mujahidin leaders and Pakistani authorities do not welcome any role for India which backs the pro-Soviet regime of Kabul. "They can always try. It's their right," a senior Pakistani Foreign Ministry official said recently.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Zain Noorani said on his return from Saudi Arabia Wednesday that Riyadh "fully supported Pakistan's efforts for the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the formation of a coalition government" in Afghanistan.

Mr. Noorani stressed that it was "essential to set up a coalition government to create conditions necessary for refugees to return to their country."

Observers noted that he did not mention the mujahidin's announcement of an interim government Tuesday. Pakistan had not officially reacted by Wednesday.

The foreign minister is scheduled to meet Mr. Armacost, diplomatic sources here said.

**Noorani Comments on Saudi Stand on Afghanistan**
*BK240636 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu*
*0600 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Mr Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Islamabad this morning after his talks with Saudi leaders. He said that Saudi Arabia fully supports Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said the Saudi leaders believe that the solution to the problem lies in the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the creation of conditions inside Afghanistan that are conducive to the voluntary return of the refugees. The Saudi leaders think that these aims could be achieved with the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

The minister of state said he exchanged views with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on other matters of mutual interest besides Afghanistan.

Commenting on the foreign secretary's visit to Iran to consult Iranian leaders on the latest developments regarding a solution to the Afghanistan problem, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Iran fully supports the Pakistan stand—that the Afghan problem cannot be solved until genuine representatives of the Afghan people are able to set up their own government. The spokesman reiterated Pakistan's stand that there is a need for simultaneous progress on both issues: the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and the establishment of a broad-based interim government there.

**Spokesman Regrets India Statement on Kashmir**
*BK231628 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu*
*1500 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan is always ready for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem under the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. Pakistan also adheres to the determination of normalizing its relations with India.

The spokesman said the statement made by the Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman on 18 February is regrettable. Commenting on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's reiteration on the issue of giving the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir, the Indian spokesman totally ignored the recognized international diplomatic norms. The Indian spokesman's statement once again reflects India's regrettable attitude toward noncompliance with the relevant UN resolutions.

The spokesman said that now, when a solution to the Afghanistan issue is in sight, the Indian spokesman's statement is tantamount to playing up the issue in a mischievous manner which has no relevance to the president's statement. This may increase further the doubts and suspicions about India's role. The efforts being made for the past 8 years for a just solution to the Afghanistan issue, both within and outside the United Nations, are before all, and this truth cannot be belied by any diplomatic tricks or baseless arguments.

## Sri Lanka

### 75 'Hardcore' Terrorists Arrested in January

*BK241132 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Security forces seized over 100 guns and had arrested 75 hardcore terrorists last month in the Galle and Matara Districts. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that 97 guns had been seized in the Galle District in a series of operations. The areas where the biggest seizure was made were at Udugama, Yakkalamulla, and Hiniduma.

Twenty-five hardcore members of the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] were arrested by the security forces in the Galle District during this period.

In Matara, about 30 guns were seized from subversives and 50 hardcore JVP were apprehended. Official sources said that among the firearms seized were single barrel breech loading guns, locally made revolvers and pistols. Most of the seizures and arrests were made on information given by the public.

### Major Drive Launched in Muttur; Arms Recovered

*BK231632 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 88*

[Text] The peacekeeping force has launched a major drive in the Muttur and surrounding area near Trincomalee in Sri Lanka. Initial reports speak of huge recovery of arms and ammunition left by LTTE men on their retreat.